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Karpov Notes Prospects for Nuclear Test Ban

LD061436 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1345 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Moscow, 6 Oct (TASS)—TASS diplomatic correspondent writes:

At the talks in Washington between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, in addition to matters related to achieving fundamental accords on the worldwide elimination of medium range and operational-tactical missiles, other important problems were also discussed. In particular, a decision was adopted on the beginning of broad talks on halting the testing of nuclear weapons, said Viktor Karpov, chief of the Arms Control and Disarmament Administration of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in an interview with a TASS diplomatic correspondent today.

Certain changes for the better have been made here in this connection: Agreement has been reached for the USSR and United States to start such negotiations no later than 1 December. The United States has long tried to reduce the whole problem of nuclear tests only to possible discussion of the technical parameters of verification of the conducting of nuclear explosions. Now there is accord that the negotiations should develop as if along two parallel lines. The first line is a total ban on nuclear weapons tests as an ultimate goal. To attain this goal, the sides will discuss improving the system of verification for nuclear tests and the absence of nuclear tests. The sides will hold negotiations with the aim of working out an improved system of verification that would enable the 1974 and 1976 treaties on underground nuclear tests to be ratified.

The second line is a stage-by-stage solution of the problem of nuclear tests by means of a gradual reduction in the number of tests carried out and in their yield. The Soviet Union is ready for the most radical solutions in this direction, Viktor Karpov stressed. We are ready right away to come to agreement with the United States on reducing the number of nuclear tests to four a year, and their yield to 1 kiloton. But for the time being, apparently, the U.S. side is not ready for such a radical reduction.

Karpov Calls French CW Stance 'Harmful'

LD061714 Moscow TASS in English 1641 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Moscow October 6 TASS—A TASS diplomatic correspondent writes:

The passivity of the U.S. side at the talks on chemical weapons in Geneva is now combined with a new stand by France which, we believe, is very harmful from the viewpoint of prospects of the conclusion of a convention on banning chemical weapons, said Viktor Karpov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry directorate on problems of arms limitation and disarmament.

France's stand at the talks on chemical weapons in Geneva was touched upon at a press conference in the Press Centre of the USSR Foreign Ministry on Monday concerning a visit of a group of experts, diplomats and journalists to the Shikhany military facilities in the USSR. Viktor Karpov today summed up the essence of the French stand during a conversation with a TASS diplomatic correspondent. The essence of that stand is that Paris strives to create chemical weapons' "reserve of security".

France proposes that the countries participating in the convention should be able not only to preserve certain volumes of chemical weapons till the period for their elimination completes but should also have a right to produce chemical weapons to renew and modernize their stockpiles. A paradoxical and absurd situation thus develops, the Soviet expert said. The convention on the elimination of chemical weapons on a global scale is being concluded, and at the same time the countries participating in the convention receive the right to produce such weapons till the end of the period of the elimination. This will result in a ten-year period of the production of chemical weapons, since precisely such a time frame is envisaged in the convention for the elimination of all chemical weapons stockpiles.

If this proposal were accepted, a wider circle of "chemical powers" than the circle of powers having chemical weapons now might be created. It would be joined by those who will worry that their neighbours have chemical weapons and will have them for another ten years. "Why shouldn't I have chemical weapons if others can produce them", is how these countries will be reasoning. Apparently if the matter is posed in this way, the very idea of the elimination of chemical weapons turns into its opposite. This is where the danger of the French stand lies.

The Soviet Union categorically objects to it. Chemical weapons should not be produced from the time the convention goes into effect. Viktor Karpov said. And the most reliable control should be ensured so that nobody could join secretly under any pretext the circle of "chemical powers".

Further Reportage on Shikhany Demonstration

News Conference Report

PM061357 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Oct 87 Second Edition p 5

[A. Gorokhov, A. Serbin report: "Ban Chemical Weapons!"]

[Text] A press conference has been held at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center at which Soviet officials answered questions by foreign guests and representatives of the mass media who attended a demonstration of standard models of chemical weapons and a mobile chemical weapon dismantling unit at the Soviet military installation in Shikhany. The foreign guests represented states participating in talks to ban chemical weapons being held as part of the Geneva Disarmament Conference.

Colonel General V. Pikalov, chief of the USSR Defense Ministry Chemical Weapon Forces, noted that the demonstration was prompted by the Soviet side's desire to create the most favorable conditions for the final stage of the talks on drawing up a convention banning these weapons. There is a real possibility, he said, to conclude work on the text of the convention. The sounding out period is over and we have now reached the crucial stage of making political decisions. The Soviet Union, V. Pikalov stressed, has already made this political decision.

Swedish representative R. Ekeus, chairman of the Special Committee for Chemical Weapons at the Geneva Conference, said that the demonstration at Shikhany is very helpful to the tasks facing the conference. It is an important step, considering that chemical weapons are shrouded in secrecy, and if this secrecy is removed it will benefit the talks.

V. Karpov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Arms Control and Disarmament Administration, said that other steps are also planned in regard to exchanging information on chemical weapons. In particular, there is a possibility of Soviet specialists visiting the United States and other countries possessing these weapons. It was noted at the same time, however, that these measures are important not per se, but in order to facilitate preparations for concluding a convention on a complete and general ban on chemical weapons and the elimination of all stockpiles. It was also pointed out that the U.S. position at the disarmament conference is static with regard to chemical weapons.

Answering a question about the U.S. intention to produce binary chemical weapons when there is a real possibility of concluding a convention, Soviet officials said that this threatens the successful outcome of the talks. The question of producing binary chemical substances will decide whether there is to be a convention or not, V. Karpov said.

Lieutenant General A. Kuntsevich, leading expert with the USSR Defense Ministry and the USSR Academy of Sciences and participant in the Geneva talks, said that the atmosphere at the Shikhany demonstration was frank and businesslike. As a result of the contacts made in Shikhany with the foreign representatives, the following conclusion can be drawn: The general opinion is that the Soviet Union has indisputably demonstrated its unquestionable willingness to destroy chemical weapons. From the viewpoint of creating favorable conditions for concluding a convention on chemical weapons this is an unprecedented step and a substantial contribution to the general cause of peace.

'New Standard' of Openness

LD041037 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0930 GMT 4 Oct 87

["Shikhany: New Standards for Openness and Glasnost"—TASS headline]

[Text] Shikhany, 4 October—A TASS special correspondent reports:

"The visit by diplomats and military experts from 45 countries to the Soviet military facility at Shikhany (in the Saratov Oblast) is further evidence of the fact that standards for openness and glasnost that were unknown previously are being born before our very eyes," Lieutenant-General Anatoliy Kuntsevich, a leading expert of the USSR Ministry of Defense, stated at a briefing today. He spoke on board the motor vessel *Yuriy Andropov*, where the visitors from overseas came following the demonstration of 19 samples of standard Soviet chemical ammunition on the proving ground belonging to the military facility.

"The demonstration at Shikhany of the arsenal of standard chemical munitions and of the military facility itself which is directly linked to chemical weapons problems leaves no doubts about the USSR's striving toward the creation of favorable conditions for the concluding stage in the working out of a convention banning chemical weapons," General Kuntsevich continued.

"The question might arise whether all the chemical munitions that the USSR has in its armaments were represented in the demonstration that has taken place. My answer is: all of them. The only exceptions were analoguous modified examples differing insignificantly in their construction and design materials. Everyone invited to the demonstration was able to convince himself of the fact that the USSR does not possess any special types of chemical weapons that other countries do not have."

General Kuntsevich also drew attention to the fact that those who came to Shikhany were shown and had demonstrated to them methods for making a toxicological assessment of the parameters of supertoxic lethal chemicals.

Replying to a question about the intention of the United States to start production of binary weapons 1 December, the general stressed that this decision runs counter to the atmosphere that has now come into being at the Geneva disarmament conference. "We hope that the positive steps taken by the Soviet leadership, and in particular its rejection of the production of chemical weapons, and the atmosphere in favor of concluding a convention arising at the talks will compel the U.S. Administration to revise its position," he said.

Delegates Discuss Trip

LD061447 Moscow in English to North America 0001 GMT 6 Oct 87

["Tonight" program presented by unidentified announcer with recorded remarks by Yuriy Nazarkin, chief delegate from the USSR; Mr Ekeus, Sweden's delegate; Max Friedersdorf, U.S. delegate; Mr (?Van Schaik), delegate from the Netherlands; and Mr (?Sukor), delegate from Poland; at a roundtable discussion held in Shikhany, 4 September]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] On Sunday, samples of the Soviet Army's chemical weapons were destroyed at Shikhany in the Volga Region in the presence of representatives of more than 40 nations, including the United States, Canada, Federal Germany, Britain, and France. [passage omitted]

On Sunday in Shikhany, Soviet and foreign representatives held a discussion. The roundtable discussion was attended by delegates from five countries involved in the Geneva Disarmament Conference: The Soviet Union, the United States, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Poland. The participants in the conference see the trip to Shikhany as the USSR's contribution to building a comprehensive system of international security, of which the elimination of chemical weapons is a part.

The chief Soviet delegate to the Geneva negotiations, Yuriy Nazarkin, made this statement:

[Begin Nazarkin recording in Russian with superimposed English translation] Such a system can materialize only when all means of mass destruction have been eliminated, and chemical weapons are such a means. On the other hand, a system of international security is being ever more closely linked to greater openness and confidence. The Soviet Union believes that the demonstration of the Soviet military installation at Shikhany is going to increase confidence at negotiations on a chemical weapons ban, promote progress at these talks and the signing at an early date of the convention that would outlaw and eliminate all chemical ammunition. [end recording]

[Announcer] Sweden's ambassador Mr Ekeus said this:

[Begin Ekeus recording] We, in one way or the other, have to also have a look upon the worldwide chemical industry. That means also that we have to cope with the problem of ownership, jurisdiction or control, which are very difficult things. (?All the) basic understanding between us has now to be translated into a detailed and concrete treaty based on it, and there we need the very important elements of confidence in each other, to trust in each other. And to create that trust—we cannot say that we have trust yet, the word is not that unfortunately, we skepticism [as heard] with regard to each other's intentions—but that is, the Shikhany invitation, as I see it, a very important contribution in order to diminish the suspicion and to build upon the possibility of increased confidence in each other. [end recording]

[Announcer] The United States' delegate to the Geneva talks on the chemical weapons ban, Ambassador Friedersdorf, made the following statement:

[Begin Friedersdorf recording] I think skepticism is the wrong word, I think caution is a better word, and patience. It's encouraging to me as ambassador from the United States to see the Soviet Union move to the position that the United States adopted in 1969. I refer to the United States at that time renouncing unilaterally the production of chemical weapons, and I also refer to the fact that the United States tabled a chemical weapons convention in Geneva several years ago, and it's exciting and hopeful to us to see that both sides are now converging on the goal of a convention and the elimination of this horrible weapon. But you must permit us just a little bit of caution on our part, because we renounced production 18 years ago and your country has produced all this time and has built up a tremendous stockpile, so I would just conclude by saying I don't think you have skepticism, I think you just have a healthy degree of cautionary optimism that a convention can be obtained. [end recording]

[Announcer] Soviet delegate Yuriy Nazarkin came out with this question:

[Begin Nazarkin recording in Russian with superimposed English translation] I'd like to ask why the United States, a country that stopped the production of chemical weapons in 1969 has rejected the socialist countries proposals for a multilateral convention to outlaw and eliminate chemical and bacteriological weapons. If the United States had accepted this proposal, other countries too would have stopped the production of chemical ammunition in 1969. [end recording]

[Begin Friedersdorf recording] Well, I certainly don't want to engage in a debate with my good friend Ambassador Nazarkin who knows infinitely more about chemical weapons than I do, and in 1968, I believe that would have been during the Nixon administration and I can't speak for President Nixon, but I assume the policy at that time and reflected in history was that the administration thought the best way to proceed to a peaceful world without chemical weapons was to quit making them, and we did quit making them and the Soviet Union did not follow suit. The Soviet Union continued for 18 years, until 6 months ago, making chemical weapons. I think the best evidence of intention is actions, not words. [end recording]

[Announcer] This answer drew a perplexed reaction from the attending journalists. One of them asked Mr Friedersdorf about the production of binary weapons in the United States. In what way will this affect the Geneva negotiations? Mr Friedersdorf:

[Begin Friedersdorf recording] Oh, I think it will hasten a treaty. We're merely modernizing our program so that there will be at least a semblance of balance of power there. I don't think it will impede the negotiations one bit. In fact, I would suspect it will probably enhance the negotiations. Treaties grow out of situations where you have strength on both sides, it builds mutual confidence, like this trip. What incentive would there be for the Soviet Union if it enjoyed a near-monopoly on chemical weapons to enter into a treaty at the conference on disarmament? I just ask you that question. [end recording]

[Announcer] Soviet delegate Yuriy Nazarkin made this comment:

[Begin Nazarkin recording in Russian with superimposed English translation] We are negotiating a ban on and the elimination of chemical weapons. I believe that these talks are in the final stage. It would be logical if countries abandoned programs for making new chemical weapons. Why should they waste their resources, when agreement is around the corner? However, if any country is launching a new program, the other participants, including the Soviet Union, are bound to ask themselves what are the real intentions of a country that is going to carry out another chemical rearmament program. Does it really believe in the successful outcome of chemical weapons' ban talks? It is reluctant to eliminate chemical weapons, but takes part in negotiations for some other reasons. We want an agreement by which all countries stop the production of chemical weapons. The point at issue is not that the Soviet Union would then allegedly have a superiority, but that all countries would ban the production of chemical ammunition and eliminate its stockpiles. [end recording]

[Announcer] The Dutch ambassador, Mr (?Van Schaik) said he was concerned about two problems: control over chemical production in the private sector and the verification of a chemical weapons ban.

[Begin (?Van Schaik) recording] We have made enormous progress in this last year, and at the same time I think we should not become impatient, because we must recognize that enormous security interests are at stake, and we must also recognize that the substance of the convention is very complex, also important industrial interests at stake. So on the one hand I would say I am optimistic that we will reach agreement, on the other hand I don't think we should speak in terms of let's have that convention within so many months. [end recording]

[Announcer] Poland's ambassador to the Geneva Disarmament Conference, Mr (?Sukor) described the invitation of foreign observers to the Soviet military installation at Shikhany in this way:

[Begin ?Sukor recording in Polish with superimposed English translation] This is evidence that we can move over from skepticism to realism, if not optimism. I believe that much of what the participants in the round table discussion have said is positive. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Chernyshev Comments

LD061217 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1042 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Moscow, 6 Oct (TASS)—TASS Military Observer Vladimir Chernyshev writes:

The Soviet Union has given a boost to the drive to free the world of chemical weapons by opening up for inspection its enterprise in Shikhany. That is the assessment in the world of the USSR's unprecedented step: the exhibition to delegations from 45 countries, UN representatives, and foreign journalists of typical examples of chemical ammunition which the USSR Armed Forces have at their disposal and the demonstration of the country's technology for destroying chemical weapons.

This action has been undertaken as a development of the Soviet Union's practical activity at the UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. But if one takes a broader view, it represents a development of the political decision adopted in the USSR on excluding chemical weapons from the arsenal of tools of armed struggle, through the elaboration and adoption jointly with other states of an effective international convention with strict verification measures.

I will recall that as far back as April this year the Soviet leadership, demonstrating the USSR's good will to follow the path of chemical disarmament, announced that production of chemical weapons had ceased in our country and that construction had begun of a special enterprise to destroy stocks of it, in order to quickly eliminate all our chemical weapons after the conclusion of an international convention. At the conference in Geneva the Soviet Union has put in a great deal of effort to push forward the elaboration of such a convention.

Because of the purposeful and constructive stance of the USSR and other Warsaw Treaty countries, the Soviet Union has made it possible to include in the draft of the future document mutually acceptable clauses on issues such as the procedure for and the organization of the process of the total elimination in the world of stocks of chemical weapons and facilities for producing them.

To speed up the completion of work on the convention, the Soviet Union has pledged to proceed from the legally established principle of compulsory inspections on demand without the right to refusal of such inspections, and has proposed the participation in this of all parties in the talks. In this decision as well, the USSR's adherence to real and effective verification has been demonstrated very convincingly.

Nevertheless there remain obstacles, put up by certain NATO countries, on the road to completing the elaboration of a convention. The United States, for example, continues to insist on the so-called "double standard" in carrying out inspections: on the one hand compulsory [Bezotkaznyy] inspections at state enterprises and installations, and on the other the opportunity to refuse inspections at installations belonging to private firms and transnational corporations. Binary weapons are a serious obstacle, for their production may be organized in secret at any chemicals enterprise. The U.S. Senate has just revoked amendments to the law which banned the production of binary weapons. France announced its program for upgrading chemical weapons just recently. All of this can hardly promote progress in Geneva.

What is necessary is for all participants in the talks to finally really confirm their political will to conclude an effective convention, subject to strict verification and containing obstacles against any possibilities of obviating its prohibiting clauses. According to Western data, at least 16 states currently possess chemical weapons and the danger of them becoming still more widespread is very great. Therefore, one of the most urgent tasks of the present day is to stop production of chemical weapons, to destroy stocks of them, and to set up barriers which completely exclude the possibility of renewing production of them.

Bogdanov on Arms Accord, Summit, SDI

PM061050 Paris LIBERATION in French 1 Oct 87 p 24

[Interview with Radomir Bogdanov, deputy director of the USSR Academy of Sciences United States of America and Canada Institute, by Alexandre Adler—date and place not given]

[Text] *Liberation*: The agreement reached between the United States and the Soviet Union on 18 September is going to lead to a third Reagan-Gorbachev summit and to the first U.S.-Soviet treaty since SALT II (which has never been ratified). Yet the Soviet Union spoke only of an "agreement in principle." Can this be seen as a sign of some reservations?

Bogdanov: I think that we have all witnessed a very important event, not only in Soviet-U.S. relations, but even on a world scale. Moreover, we expect it to produce very positive developments for international relations as a whole, not just for the USSR and the United States. Having said that, we do not yet have full agreement, but just "an agreement in principle" on the possibility of signing a treaty. In my view "in principle" means a great deal: It means that the major problems have been solved and that only technical details remain. The heads of the Soviet and U.S. delegations in Geneva have been given instructions to make things official. So, the agreement has not yet been completed, but this will not take long.

However, we must remain cautious. There is still a great deal of fairly difficult work to do before the final signing. I must remind you that, in the past, we have seen unexpected developments when agreements reached have not been carried through as a result of upheavals on the U.S. political stage. I would hate to see such a situation recur. If you look at what is happening in the United States, and at all the forces which have been mobilized against this agreement, you have every reason to think that the battle to conclude the treaty is not over. There is no problem on the Soviet side, but the problems are just beginning on the U.S. side.

Liberation: Shultz and Shevardnadze referred to the practical possibility of a second agreement, this time relating to strategic arms, from the first half of 1988, at the end of which the USSR and the United States would halve their central arsenals. Does this mean that the USSR would agree to separate negotiations on offensive weapons and the problems linked to the SDI, contrary to the position adopted at both the Geneva and Reykjavik summits?

Bogdanov: I think that if we succeed in reaching agreement on the INF (the Euromissiles), we will have created a very favorable psychological climate for making great progress in the strategic nuclear arms sphere. Let us repeat that we have already agreed "in principle" to halve the Soviet and U.S. strategic arsenals. Obviously, all this can only be done provided the 1972 ABM Treaty has been strengthened in such a way that, over the next 10 years, neither side will try to violate it or overstep its limits.

In my view, there can be no compromise on the close link between the 50-percent reduction and the 1972 treaty. Moreover, this is common sense, because the two problems are logically interdependent. But, we are also very realistic, because we think that the SDI can encourage an offensive strategy, so much so that it would inevitably lead to a new arms race, which would have the one result of destroying all other arms limitation possibilities in other spheres. That is why we ought to examine this question very seriously.

Liberation: Even before Reykjavik, the USSR referred to the possibility of a moratorium on the SDI, and of a redefinition of laboratory experiments which are permitted, as opposed to operational research. Is there a possibility of compromise here?

Bogdanov: I think that your leaders know that on several occasions, including the latest Washington meeting, we told the Americans that we are prepared to discussed these subjects for negotiation to which you have just referred. We expect the Americans at least to express their views on this subject—what they think is possible and what is not.

Liberation: Are we also moving toward a solution to regional conflicts?

Bogdanov: You know that we have already made the political decision to withdraw from Afghanistan. We are only putting forward one precondition which I think is very simple and very sensible: Before withdrawing we want to be sure that the armed groups—the mujahidin—are no longer receiving arms and supplies from Pakistan. We already have an agreement with the Afghan Government on withdrawal, and have even drawn up the routes along which the troops will withdraw. But the guarantee that Afghanistan will remain neutral and independent must be respected.

With regard to the conflict between Iran and Iraq, we have already expressed the view, through our vote in favor of Security Council resolutions, that this bloody and insane—and I mean bloody and insane—conflict must end. That is why I think that any sensible proposal, and any reasonable suggestion from the West, will be accepted and supported by the Soviet Union.

Reports on Development of Space Arms Cited

LD061720 Moscow TASS in English 1657 GMT 6 Oct 87

["The United States Speeding Up Efforts To Implement SDI"—TASS headline]

[Text] Washington October 6 TASS—The Pentagon is speeding up efforts to develop space strike arms under the U.S. "Star Wars" program.

The Associated Press news agency reported that the U.S. Department of Defense intended to sign a 10.8 million dollar contract with one of the subsidiaries of Martin-Marietta Aerospace Company, commissioning a special study in that field. The main objective of the study is to prove the feasibility of wide-scale use of lasers for the development of weapons under the "Strategic Defense Initiative" (SDI).

A spokesman for the Pentagon said that on the basis of that study the SDI organization (the agency in charge of implementing SDI) will make a decision on the development of prototypes of such weapons and their testing.

The U.S. Department of Defense also announced that a successful test of a chemical laser had been carried out at White Sands Missile Testing Range. That laser could later be used in the SDI program.

During the test the laser destroyed a low-flying dummy missile. According to a spokesman for the Pentagon the conditions of that test, the purpose of which was to determine the efficiency of laser weapons when used against missiles, maximally resembled the actual ones. The same laser can be used for the development of new air-defense systems for U.S. naval ships.

The U.S. Administration is working out plans for lifting nuclear reactors into near-earth orbits. According to *The New York Times*, they are to be used to supply energy to space combat stations equipped with laser weapons.

A multimillion contract was already signed with General Electric on the development of a space reactor prototype. It is to be a rather compact system fitting into the cargo bay of a shuttle spacecraft. Ground tests of the reactor should be completed by 1991 or 1992. It is planned to put it in orbit in the mid-1990s.

That program, according to *The New York Times*, is funded by the Pentagon, the Department of Energy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Military Inspectors Conclude Turkey Trip

LD070836 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0510 GMT 7 Oct 87

[Text] Istanbul, 7 Oct (TASS)—A group of Soviet military inspectors were in Turkey from 5-7 October. Their trip took place on the basis of the corresponding provisions of the document of the Stockholm Conference for measures to strengthen trust, security, and disarmament in Europe.

Pyadyshev Briefs Reporters 6 October

Preparations for Shultz Visit

LD061606 Moscow TASS in English 1550 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Moscow October 6 TASS—The Soviet side is preparing in a very serious manner for upcoming exchanges of views during the visit of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to the Soviet Union due to begin October 22, Boris Pyadyshev, first deputy head of the Information Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., said today. He spoke at a briefing for Soviet and foreign newsmen.

It is planned to discuss in detail problems related to strategic offensive arms. The Soviet point of view on that matter is clear: We stand for making vigorous joint efforts with the aim of reaching agreement—as early as in the first half of the next year—on reducing strategic offensive arms of the sides in half in conditions of the strict compliance with the ABM treaty.

It is also planned to discuss the state of affairs in a number of regions where the situation remains tense, notably: the Middle East, the Iranian-Iraqi conflict and some other regional issues.

There are grounds to hope, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said, that by the beginning of the Moscow talks the Soviet and U.S. delegations in Geneva will complete the drafting of the treaty on medium- and shorter-range missiles. Thus far the work in Geneva has been marked by some headway. Out of 16 or 17 articles which will make up the draft treaty only 2-3 remain unagreed. One of them is the provision on non-circumventing the treaty, that is, on the pledges of the parties not to retain medium-range missiles through any loophole, for instance, through transferring such missiles to other states.

Weinberger-Yazov Meeting

LD061530 Moscow TASS in English 1518 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Moscow October 6 TASS—Soviet and foreign journalists present at today's briefing in the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Press Center showed interest in the proposed meeting between the defence ministers of the Soviet Union and the United States.

Following the announcement about that meeting last Thursday, the Soviet and American sides had an exchange of views.

The Soviet Union had confirmed the invitation to U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger to meet with Soviet Defence Minister Dmitriy Yazov within the framework of the Standing Consultative Commission in Geneva in the first ten days of October, said Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Boris Pyadyshev.

During the meeting, he observed, the sides could agree on further contacts between the ministers, including an exchange of official visits.

Missile Tests No Threat

LD051540 Moscow TASS in English 1522 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Moscow October 6 TASS—In view of the speculation by some Western press media concerning tests of Soviet carrier rockets, Boris Pyadyshev, first deputy head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate, told a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists that the Soviet side announced in advance about the area to be hit by Soviet carrier rockets in the Pacific Ocean from September 29 to October 8 this year, that is three days before the start of the tests. No remarks and objections were made on the part of the United States in connection with these tests.

Rocket firings posed no danger to the territory of the Hawaiian Islands. The area where warheads fell is located some 400 and more kilometers away from islands. The trajectory of warhead flights did not pass over the territory of the Hawaiian Islands.

In short, there was no pretext for expressing concern, Pyadyshev stressed. The fact that someone in the United States is now trying to make groundless claims to the Soviet side can be evaluated as a pronounced intention to introduce an additional, if only a minor, irritant in Soviet-U.S. relations.

Murmansk Criticisms 'Absurd'

LD061622 Moscow TASS in English 1557 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Moscow October 6 TASS—The reaction to Mikhail Gorbachev's peace initiatives advanced in Murmansk, above all responses from Nordic countries, show that the specific programme for drastic reduction in the level of military confrontation in Northern Europe is viewed as an urgent undertaking dictated by political and military needs, Boris Pyadyshev, first deputy head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate, told a briefing here today.

"The all-embracing concept of universal international security advanced by the Soviet leadership is being vigorously filled with practical contents," he pointed out.

"Gorbachev's six Murmansk proposals meet the vital interests of the region's nations and do not infringe anyone's interests.

The Soviet side believes that the response by some countries whose official representatives hastened to express doubts and even negative assessments is not final. One would like to hope that more thorough study of the Soviet leader's Murmansk programme would bring about positive conclusionis this programme deserves.

One should not pass by unscrupulous methods of covering and commenting on the Soviet initiatives," said the Soviet spokesman.

He rejected the allegations by the *British Broadcasting Corporation* that some essential foreign policy provisions of the Murmansk speech had been omitted in the Soviet press.

He dismissed the BBC's claims that the Soviet proposals did not mention that a nuclear-free zone in northern Europe could include Soviet territory, and other speculations.

"It is on the BBC management's conscience that Soviet affairs are being handled there by irresponsible people," Pyadyshev said. "What is worse is that absurd political conclusions are being made on the basis of unceremonious conoctions of these people, conclusions which are deficient and harmful for mutual understanding and cooperation."

Aims of Shevardnadze L.A. Visit

LD061451 Moscow TASS in English 1426 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Moscow October 6 TASS—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's discussions with the Uruguayan president and his talks with the foreign minister of the country which was the first in Latin America to establish diplomatic ties with the Soviet Union were held in a constructive spirit, Boris Pyadyshev, first deputy head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate, told a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists here today.

In Uruguay, the sides discussed issues of international security and disarmament and bilateral relations.

It was the objective of Shevardnadze's tour of three South American countries, said the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, to better understand problems facing that vast region and the complexities and diverse character of the Latin American reality, and conduct a thorough dialogue with the leaders of those countries.

Such was the desire of the Soviet side, and it evoked an adequate response on the part of the Latin American nations.

'Grateful' for Pakistani Aid

LD061454 Moscow TASS in English 1438 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Moscow October 6 TASS—Two Soviet helicopters, on a mission above Afghan territory on October 3 in conditions of poor visibility, lost orientation and, being short of fuel, had to land inside Pakistan in the area north of Chatral, Boris Pyadyshev, first deputy head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate, said here today.

The Soviet side, he told a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists, immediately notified the Pakistani authorities about that fact and requested them to ensure safety for the crews of the Soviet helicopters (six people) and their return to the Soviet Union.

The Pakistani authorities promptly responded to the request. According to the top officials of the Pakistani Foreign Ministry, the Soviet pilots would be handed over to the Soviet side today.

"We are grateful to the Pakistani authorities for their understanding of the situation related to the forced landing of the Soviet helicopters and for timely humanitarian aid to the crews," said the Soviet spokesman.

Soviet-Israeli Relations

LD061601 Moscow TASS in English 1543 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Moscow October 6 TASS—"Unfortunately, in Israel they are trying to present in a distorted way the essence of the New York meeting between Eduard Shevardnadze, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, and Shim'on Peres," Boris Pyadyshev, first deputy head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry, told Soviet and foreign journalists at today's briefing. During the meeting the Soviet minister explicitly set forth the position of the Soviet Union on Soviet-Israeli relations: We do not consider the absence on diplomatic contacts between Moscow and Tel Aviv as normal. The Soviet Union believes that changes in this area are possible only within the framework of the Middle Eastern settlement, on the basis of real headway in convening an international conference on the Middle East.

There is no point in spreading rumours in connection with the absence of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel, the Soviet spokesman said. Our position on this issue is invariable.

The extension by three months of the stay of the Soviet consular delegation in Israel was dictated only by a great amount of work, which is needed to be done, and not by any political considerations, as unscrupulous sources in Israel are hinting.

Rust Sentence Put Into Effect

LD061506 Moscow TASS in English 1441 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Moscow October 6 TASS—Responding to the question on the further lot of West German pilot Mathias Rust, who violated Soviet airspace last May, Boris Pyadyshev, first deputy head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate, told a briefing today that the sentence passed on Rust went into force.

Under the penal and procedural code of the Russian Federation, the term of the sentence runs from the day of the arrest, that is in this case from May 28, 1987. The convict is staying, as before, at the Lefortovo Prison. Rust approached the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR with a request for mercy. The issue is under consideration in keeping with the procedure in effect for such kinds of requests.

Japanese Embassy Employees

LD061530 Moscow TASS in English 1510 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Moscow October 6 TASS—Asked by Japanese journalists about the work of Soviet nationals at the Japanese Embassy, Boris Pyadyshev, first deputy head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate, told a briefing today:

"Indeed, a number of Soviet citizens recently retired from service at the Japanese Embassy in Moscow. The motives for taking this step were personal.

"It is probable that the embassy is having certain difficulties in this connection, a situation which the Soviet side regards with understanding."

The question of Soviet citizens' retirement was purely technical, said the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman. "It is appropriate to mention that the Soviet Embassy in Japan also has its problems connected with quota restrictions of which the Japanese side is well aware."

Policy Iniatives Clarified at CSCE Meeting

LD061708 Moscow TASS in English 1638 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Vienna October 6 TASS—The speech by the Soviet delegation at today's plenary session of the Vienna meeting of the participating states in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe was devoted to clarifying the USSR's new foreign policy initiatives advanced in the speech by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in Murmansk, their close relationship with the goals and content of the CSCE process.

Oceans and seas wash the shores of over one third of the CSCE states from both hemispheres, which have a vital stake in peace and cooperation in that region. Resolving the issues of security, first and foremost, of setting up a nuclear-free zone in the north of Europe, restricting naval activity, spreading confidence-building measures to adjacent seas, notifying about large-scale naval and airfofce exercises and inviting to them observers from all the participating states in the CSCE process is of prime importance in this respect.

Y. Kashlev, head of the USSR delegation, proposed that these issues be the subject of concrete consideration at the next stage of the conference on confidence- and security-building measures and disarmament in Europe, the issue of whose continuation is examined in Vienna now.

Gorbachev's proposals for developing regional cooperation in the North in the sphere of the economy, science and environmental protection drew a no less interest. These proposals, once implemented, would give a powerful impetus to the interaction of Nordic states.

The text of Gorbachev's speech in Murmansk was circulated by the Soviet delegation among all participants in the Vienna meeting.

UN Report Issued on USSR Peace Initiative

LD061352 Moscow TASS in English 1325 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] New York October 6 TASS—By TASS correspondent Sergey Baybakov:

The Soviet initiatives and proposals by other nations alarmed over the fate of the world could underlie multisided exchanges of views at a world conference on disarmament, says a report by the U.N. secretary-general, released today.

The report, quoting the opinion of various nations on the idea of convening such a conference, will be submitted for consideration to the current 42nd session of the U.N. General Assembly.

The Soviet Union's practical work vividly attested to the sincereity of its intentions to build a nuclear-free, nonviolent and demilitarized world, noted the USSR's letter, included in the report.

Demonstrating its understanding of the realities of the nuclear age, the USSR recently submitted a number of specific, far-reaching proposals directed at eliminating all types of weapons of mass annihilation, especially nuclear weapons, preventing the spread of the arms race into outer space and limiting military activity.

The report made it clear that only the United States and Great Britain continued to demonstrate a negative attitude to the idea backed by the majority of U.N. member coutnries.

They continued repeating the thesis that the present-day international situation was not conducive to considering the issue of preparing the conference and, allegedly, its convocation would be premature and ineffective.

Yeltsin Briefs Diplomats on Restructuring

LD062229 Moscow TASS in English 2138 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Moscow October 6 TASS—"We do not subdivide information into that for 'home consumption' and for foreign use. In accordance with glasnost and democratisation we tell all the truth, and not half-truths, to readers at home and abroad," Boris Yeltsin said.

Alternate Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, First Secretary of the Moscow City Committee of the Party Boris Yeltsin met today with heads of diplomatic missions accredited in the USSR. During a conversation that lasted for three hours he told them about how the reorganization in the Soviet capital proceeds.

"The process of renewal has been started and there is definite success," Yeltsin said. "But the most difficult thing is to be achieved in Moscow and the whole country: The cardinal restructuring of the industry is to be carried out. 160 enterprises have already been switched to cost-accounting in Moscow. Another 1,100 enterprises will join them as of January 1, 1988. The destiny of the reorganization, will largely depend on now this process proceeds.

"The reorganization was started in Moscow in January 1986, when a conference of the party organization of the city was held," Yeltsin recalled. "The main trends of the city's development were then determined after a thorough analysis, and 24 comprehensive purpose-oriented programmes were drawn up."

Yeltsin said that a demographic miscalculation had been the main strategic error in the general plan of 1971. As many as 700 thousand workers moved to Moscow from other places within 10-12 years, and Moscow's present population, nearly nine million, is an increase of one million on the population planned for 1990. This overpopulation aggravated other problems. The efforts of party, trade union and other organizations of the capital are now aimed at their solution.

Boris Yeltsin said that Moscow is visited every day by two million people in winter and three million in summer. It is visited by one million tourists and 150 delegations every year. But the Soviet capital is always hospitable. It maintains contacts with 77 cities, and we intend to widen them and impart new forms to them, the speaker said. As many as 200 enterprises in Moscow cooperate with partners abroad.

Dwelling on the reorganization in the work with personnel, Boris Yeltsin gave concrete figures of the renewal of the composition of the city committee of the CPSU, the Moscow City Soviet, trade unions. For instance, 23 first secretaries of the CPSU district committees were replaced. "Manifestations of parasitic attitudes, demagogy, appear on the crest of democratisation," Boris Yeltsin said. "There are outbursts of nationalism. But these phenomena are of a limited scope, for they have no social roots, nor can they have any."

Boris Yeltsin told diplomats about the plans for the reconstruction of the historic centre of Moscow, setting up of cooperatives, construction of new lines of the underground, stores, hospitals. The annual allocations for Moscow's social needs are now 50 per cent larger than in the previous five-year period.

On behalf of the diplomatic corps its doyen, DPRK Ambassador Kwon Hui-Kyong thanked Boris Yeltsin for an interesting and frank conversation.

International Situation: Questions and Answers

LD041729 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1715 GMT 2 Oct 87

["International Situation—Questions and Answers" program presented by Sergey Pravdin, foreign political commentator of All-Union Radio, with Anatoliy Andreyevich Krasilkov, TASS deputy general director and an international affairs journalist; Vyacheslav Lavrentyev, international affairs journalist; Boris Andrianov, international affairs journalist; Igor Surguchev, commentator and international affairs journalist; Dmitriy Morozov, international affairs journalist; and Delhi Correspondent Yuriy Kirichatyy]

[Excerpts] [Pravdin] The authors of many of the letters received at the editorial office in the last few days express total support for the accords attained between the Soviet Union and the United States on the elimination of two classes of nuclear missiles. They express the hope that the actual approach to the matter and the new thinking projected by the Soviet Union will allow the talks to be continued between the sides on questions of disarmament, in particular on a cut in strategic nuclear arms. Our regular listeners, Nadezhda Ivanovna Zharkova from the town of Venev in Tula Oblast; Muscovite Ignat Vasiliyevich Voznyy, war and labor veteran; Yakov Vasiliyevich Sedov from the village of Meurs in Rostov Oblast; Danilyuk from the Omsk Oblast; Urzunov from Bashkiria; Raisa Pavlovna Ozernaya from the village of Trevolye in Voroshilovgrad Oblast; Shkurdyukov from Leningrad; and many others write to us about this in particular.

Today we have with us in the studio TASS Deputy General Director Anatoliy Andreyevich Krasikov. We are eager to hear your comments.

[Krasikov] The Soviet-U.S. talks which took place not so long ago in Washington have indeed become an important event in international life. The results of the talks between Foreign Minister Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State Shultz, and those with President Reagan are even now being discussed in a lively manner by statesmen, public figures, and by the mass media of all countries. The U.S. viewpoint regarding the results is now being explained to the U.S. allies by Vice President Bush. During the last few days he has been travelling around Europe. We believe that at these talks no one side was the winner nor the loser — the winner was realism and common sense was the victor.

At the same time, however, we naturally see in these results a vivid example of the effectiveness of our peace policy. A wide range of questions were discussed at the talks. They touched upon bilateral relations between the major powers of the modern world and international relations as a whole. The heads of the two countries' diplomatic departments were already meeting for the seventh time, and, in this connection, it is being said that the Soviet visitor reminded his U.S. interlocutor of the proverb measure it out seven times and cut it out once. And they have cut it out; moreover I think, in the very best possible way. For the first time in the entire history of the existence of the nuclear weapons they have managed to agree upon the elimination of two classes of nuclear weapons — medium- and shorter-range missiles.

The delegations of the two countries meeting in Geneva have received instructions to intensify the work to agree upon the remaining technical questions and to draw up the final text of a draft treaty as soon as possible. It was agreed that a treaty on medium- and shorter-range missiles would be signed at a meeting between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan. This meeting will of course allow the whole complex of mutual relations between the two great powers to be examined. The meeting is to take place this fall. But, for the moment, it is too early to talk about definite dates. It is has been agreed that they will be determined at the talks in Moscow between the USSR foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state. The date of those talks is known. On 20 October 20 Shultz will leave Washington by air. The next day he will arrive in Helsinki. On 22 and 23 October, he will be in our capital. The following day, the 24th, he will meet with his colleagues from the NATO powers in Brussels. After that, he will return to the United States.

Well, we shall dot all the i's straightaway. For the moment of course there are no particular grounds for euphoria and some kind of effusions of delight. In accordance with the accord reached 2,000 warheads from missiles with a range of 500-5,500 km are to be eliminated. That is a very small part of the nuclear arsenals that the great powers have at their disposal today. However, there is another thing we must not, of course forget about — representatives of the military-industrial complex and those who uphold their interests in the West's governmental bodies immediately launched an energetic activity as well, calculated on continuing and even stepping up the arms race in other directions.

We have long been aware that there are in the United States not only supporters but also influential opponents of an agreement. Thus, when he learned of the progress made at the talks, U.S. Congressman Les Aspin, chairman of the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives, literally said the following: A small step has been made in the wrong direction. A small one—he did as it were twist his mouth—and moreover in the wrong direction. One of the commentators in the newspaper *New York Post* gave his article the following heading: The United States is Licking Red Boots. Naturally, no one is licking anyone's boots. But in spite of the limited nature of the accord that has been reached, it would be a mistake to underestimate what is, all the same, its actual significance. This is what comrade Shevardnadze said in his speech at the 42d session of the UN General Assembly: The Soviet Union and the the United States have at last jointly pronounced the first word in a nuclear-free lexicon. When that word becomes a deed, the world will acquire the conviction that nuclear arms and security are not synonymous, and that security will become greater when that weapon disappears.

[Pravdin] Yes, indeed. As Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev said in his speech in Murmansk: A new democratic philosophy in international relations, of world politics is carving its way. A new way of thinking, with its humane and universally human criteria and values are penetrating all kinds of strata. Its strength lies in that it is in keeping with popular common sense. And if we take into account that great anexiety about the situation in the world is characteristic of world opinion, of the peoples throughout the world, then our policy, Comrade Gorbachev said, is an invitation to dialogue, to a quest for a better world, to a normalization in international realtions. [passage omitted]

[Pravdin] Doctor of Historical Sciences Sirotin asks the following question: At his Washington press conference, Comrade Shevardndaze announced that he had conveyed to U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger an invitation to meet the USSR defense minister. He added that Weinberger had so far given no reaction to our invitation. Meanwhile, Western radio stations are alleging that it was Weinberger who first proposed such a meeting, and that it was thus not a case of the United States accepting the Soviet proposal but, on the contrary, of the USSR allegedly agreeing to the U.S. idea. Is there not a certain contradiction here?

[Krasikov] Let me first cite verbatim the statement made by Comrade Shevardnadze in Washington, for the sake of clarity. I quote: We have made a number of specific proposals to preserve and strengthen the regime of the AMB Treaty. This could be discussed in specific detail at a personal meeting by our countries' defense ministers. I have in mind, in the first place, matters—the different accounts—relating to so-called violations of the ABM treaty. On the instructions of the Soviet leadership, I conveyed to U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger an invitation to such a meeting, which could be held in the framework of a regular meeting of the standing consultative commission. Let me tell you in confidence that Mr Weinberger has so far given no reaction to our proposal. Unquote.

As you can see, our foreign minister declared that we invited Weinberger to a meeting with our minister for a specific discussion on a specific topic—how to preserve and strengthen the regime of the ABM Treaty. We know, of course, that Weinberger is someone who has up to now been one of the most vehement spokesman for the Star Wars idea. In other words, he would like to bury the ABM Treaty, and moving the U.S. secretary into taking part in talks on protecting this treaty is not such an easy matter. But in our view this is necessary. Now, as before, Weinberger is doging a reply to our proposal on the aims of the meeting, and at the same time is demonstrating his complete disagreement with everything that could hinder the militarization of space. Weinberger's position coincides with the position of the military-industrial complex and all the representatives of rightwing U.S. circles.

Incidentally, literally 3 days ago, *The Washington Post* criticized President Reagan for continually making concessions to the most conservative and most right wing forces, and appealed to him not to miss a favorable opportunity in the area of arms reductions. It is possible, the paper said, that it is now an appropriate moment for Reagan finally to brave the anger of the right and risk recognizing political reality by adhering to a strict interpretation of the ABM Treaty.

[Pravdin] The prospects for reaching an accord between the Soviet Union and the United States on questions of arms cuts is not to the liking of extreme right wing forces not just in the United States. There have been some reports in the press on the special stand taken by Britain and France. What can you tell us about that?

[Krasikov] Well, you mentioned two Western powers whose governments do not in actual fact share the enthusiasm about such a development of events whereby the world would gradually move toward liberation from nuclear weapons. But I believe that the explanation here is quite simple. In both cases it is a question of nuclear powers. Naturally, the nuclear arsenals of Britain and France are much smaller than either ours or the Americans', but they distinguish Britain and France from the huge number of countries which do not possess such weapons; and I recall the words of a French diplomat to me in a moment of frankness: If we give up our nuclear potential, he said, then we will immediately become a second-rank country. This way we come under the same category as the two mightiest powers in the modern world — the USSR and the United States. Well, even today British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and French Prime Minister Jacques Chiraq, while agreeing, so to speak, that a Soviet-U.S. accord is important, do, at the same time publicly state that they will never give up their own nuclear weapons. And they even use the word never.

There is yet another point. Western politicians and propagandists are extremely worried that they are losing the battle to win over public opinion. In the past, a fairly considerable percentage of those living in the West believed the myth about the Soviet threat. They believed it, despite that such a myth was groundless, something which was obvious to us. And now, our constant peace initiatives are increasingly eroding the image of Western propaganda that made our country out to be the foe, and we hear what I would say are fairly interesting things said.

Here are the recommendations that Heisbourg, the new director of the International Institute of Strategic Studies — a Frenchman incidentally, made a few days ago in the British newspaper *The Times*: It is not sufficient to just sit with your arms folded and wait and see what new proposal the general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party makes. The NATO alliance itself should come forward with some initiatives in the sphere of arms control instead of being forced to react to the astute actions of Mikhail Gorbachev. That is what he said. Well, naturally, we think least of all about who said what first when it comes to matters of disarmament. The main thing for us is the essence of the matter. And I will allow myself to conclude with the words uttered by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev at the recent meeting with representatives of the French public: When we proposed a 15-year-long program of eliminating nuclear weapons, we proceeded from several principle-based positions. The first of them is that security can only be equal. Attemtps to outwit one another and achieve superiority are fraught with serious consequences. This is inadmissible. We do not want less security for the United States than there is for the Soviet Union. That would not be advantageous to us because it would worry the U.S. Administration. It would seek ways of solving that problem, and that would lead to political instability. In just the same way, when resolving questions with the United States, we never forget about the security interests of other peoples, including all the European peoples, of course. We live here, we have been linked for many centuries, and we are preparing to continue to live together with these peoples and cooperate with them. [passage omitted]

[Pravdin] Listener Sergey Vladimirovich Pochevalov from the town of Groznyy asks how our relations with the countries of Latin America are developing. My colleague, Vyacheslav Lavrentev, answers the question:

[Lavrentev] The development of relations between the Soviet Union and Latin American countries was affected for a long time by that continent's geographical remoteness, as well as by the dominant position of the United

States there. At the beginning of the 19th century U.S. President Monroe proclaimed that America must belong to the Americans. [passage omitted]

Even today, the main sin of the Sandinist government of Nicaragua lies, in the Washington's view, in that it maintains good relations with our country and Cuba. In no way does the U.S. Administration want to renounce its old stereotypes, viewing our ties with Latin American countries through the prism of East-West confrontation.

But now, the United States can merely complicate this rapprochement, not block it. At a time when the prestige of our country and trust in us are also growing on the Latin American continent, we are seeing a desire by many countries of the region to deepen ties and multilateral relations with the Soviet Union. Some see in us a promising trading partner, while others, seeing the sincerity of our efforts to find solutions to the most complicated international problems, would like to join forces with the Soviet Union in this activity.

The visit by Comrade Shevardnadze, minister of foreign affairs of the Soviet Union, to Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay is indicative in this regard. These countries belong to the Western world; their governments are devoted to bourgeois values. But none the less, they are seeking to expand contacts with us. Why? Well, because the Soviet leadership is proposing new approaches to the structure of international relations and a new concept for the construction of peace that takes into account the legitimate interests of all countries, large and small.

The official visit by Comrade Shevardnadze to Brazil is already over. The joint communique reflects many joint points of contact on disarmament problems and guaranteeing international peace. During the talks, the Soviet side stated its support for the Brazilian initiative to declare the South Atlantic a zone of peace and cooperation. As was noted, the visit promoted the strengthening of mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries and opened up new channels of cooperation and dialogue.

Now Comrade Shevardnadze is in Argentina, and his trip to Uruguay is still to come. In general, it must be said that interest in expanding ties with the Soviet Union has risen recently in other Latin American countries as well. [passage omitted]

[Pravdin] Listener Sergey Kriks from Kamensk-Shakhtinskiy in Rostov Oblast asks us to talk about the U.S. Navy and the role it plays in implementing the neoglobalist policy of the Washington Administration.

Well, as far as the second half of the question is concerned, an obvious example of the role assigned to the U.S. Navy by Washington is the present piratical operations of U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf. The United States has now created, thousands of miles from their shores, a powerful naval strike force, which they have not had in any region since the time of the aggression in Vietnam. Washington has also gotten some of its closest NATO allies to dispatch warships to the region of the Persian Gulf. All together, there are up to 100 ships there now, under various flags. This has sharply intensified the situation in the Gulf region and prompted new bitter fighting on the Iran-Iraq front. All this testifies to the fact that the U.S. Navy is being used by Washington, among other things, for the execution of various kinds of military adventures and acts of state terrorism. [passage omitted]

The Navy, as *The New York Times* newspaper puts it, has been the favorite child of all U.S. Administrations. But all the same, there will hardly be another ruler of the White House so concerned to increase America's naval power as the present one. It was precisely under the present administration that a program to modernise the U.S. Navy was adopted. It will cost the taxpayers several tens of billions dollars and envisages, in particular, increasing the number of warships to 600 by 1990. It must be said that, according to reports in the U.S. press, this program is being implemented well ahead of schedule. Further, growth in the nuclear strike capability of the U.S. submarine fleet is being conducted within this program. Pentagon chief Weinberger once admitted that the present administration is firmly resolved to gain an indisputable advantage on the seas and oceans. According to him, this would give the United States the opportunity to get into any vitally important region of the globe.

In other words, Washington intends to continue pursuing the very same aggressive policy. These dangerous plans are meeting with growing opposition from the world public. Evidence of this is, in particular, major demonstrations against U.S. military bases in many countries and the establishment of nuclear-free zones in a number of regions of the planet.

As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, it has repeatedly expressed a readiness to reach an agreement with the United States on limiting naval activity and spreading confidence-building measures on the area of the seas and oceans. As Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev said in his speech in Murmansk, our country proposes, in particular, examination of the issue of banning naval activity in mutually agreed zones of international straits and altogether in intensive shipping routes. To this end, Comrade Gorbachev said, a meeting of representatives of interested states could be held, for example, in Leningrad.

[Pravdin] And to continue on the very same subject, here is a short answer to a letter from Dmitriy Petrukhin of Moscow, who asked us to talk about the British Navy, the closest U.S. ally in NATO.

Of course, the time when Great Britain was called ruler of the seas has sunk into oblivion. But even now the British Navy, in terms of numbers and fighting strength, is in second place behind the U.S. Navy in the capitalist world. The British naval fleet currently numbers over 80,000 servicemen; its large surface ships include aircraft carriers. Great Britain is now implementing a program, adopted in 1979, to re-equip its nuclear submarine fleet. It envisages, in particular, arming submarines with American Trident-2 missiles with multiple warheads. As *The Sunday Times* newspaper has reported, this will make it possible to increase the fighting strength of the British submarine fleet at once by several fold.

Our listeners point out quite rightly that Britain's Navy, like the fleets of other NATO member countries, is intended to carry out aggressive expansionist tasks. This is demonstrated clearly by the piratical operations of the British fleet during the Anglo-Argentine war for the Falkland-Malvinas Islands in 1982. The British Government was the first of the U.S. allies to respond to the U.S. call to send warships to the Persian Gulf. The Western press reports that the British Naval Command is coordinating its operations closely with the commander of the U.S. naval group in that region.

[Pravdin] Our program is receiving letters from people interested in why a peace treaty between the Soviet Union and Japan has not been signed, although diplomatic relations have been established between the two countries. My colleague, Boris Andrianov, answers the question:

[Andrianov] Thirty-one years ago—or, more precisely, on 19 October 1956—the Soviet Union and Japan signed a joint declaration. It proclaimed the ending of the state of war and the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the two states. Our country renounced all claims to reparations from Japan and agreed to support its request for admission to the United Nations; and at the same time, the two sides agreed to continue negotiations on the conclusion of a peace treaty. Incidentally, the Soviet Union was and remains in favor of placing its relations with Japan on firm, treaty-based foundations. The fact that the Soviet Union once submitted for examination by the Japenese government its proposal to conclude a treaty on good-neighborliness and cooperation between the two countries serves as confirmation of this position. It is also appropriate to recall yet another document: the joint Soviet-Japanese statement of 10 October 1973. It was adopted during a visit to the Soviet Union by Japanese Prime Minister Tanaka. This statement said the following, in particular: "Aware that the settlement of the unresolved issues that have remained since World War II, and that the conclusion of a peace treaty will contribute to the establishment of genuinely good-neighborly and friendly relations between the two countries, the sides conducted talks on subjects concerning the contents of a peace treaty." The same document also recorded an accord to continue talks on concluding a peace treaty, in accordance with which consultative meetings between the foreign ministers of the Soviet Union and Japan were held alternately in Tokyo and Moscow. Talks were conducted there concerning the conclusion of a peace treaty, including matters that might form the contents of such a document.

I assume that after all these explanations a question is very probably already maturing in the minds of our listeners: Why has a peace treaty between the Soviet Union and Japan not yet seen the light of day? The causes for the absence of such a document are no secret, far from it: the main one is the unrealistic position occupied by the Japanese side. They are submitting unfounded demands, which by their nature have no prospects, for the solution of an issue that in reality does not exist in relations between our countries. I mean the issue of the so-called northern territories. This is what official Tokyo calls the Islands of the Lesser Kurile Ridge, putting forward a mendacious claim to the effect that these islands are and always have been Japanese territory which, they claim, is being held by the Soviet Union. This invented problem has been raised to the level of state policy, and a wide-scale campaign is being waged for the return of the northern territories, acquiring a character bordering on hostility towards our country. And, to judge by the words of representatives of official Tokyo, the Japanese side is trying to tie this unfriendly campaign to the subject of a peace treaty. For instance, Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe stated that the Government of Japan would never renounce its territorial claims and would make the development of relations with the Soviet Union dependent on their fulfilment. One gains the impression that positive changes in mutual relations between Japan and our country, which considers all Japan's territorial claims against the Soviet Union as unfounded and illegitimate, are not at all to somebody's liking. [passage omitted]

United States & Canada

Nikonov, Agro-Industrial Delegation Visit

Arrival Reported

LD062158 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2110 GMT 6 Sep 87

[Text] Washington, 6 Oct—A delegation of commissions on the agro-industrial complex of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet headed by V.P. Nikonov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, arrived here on Tuesday at the invitation of the Agriculture Committee of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress. During the visit, the delegation will meet President R. Reagan, Secretary of State G. Shultz, and representatives of Congress and U.S. business and scientific circles. The delegation's trip around the country includes visits to agricultural facilities and enterprises for processing, storing and distributing agricultural products. At Andrews Air Force Base located near Washington, where the Soviet delegation arrived, it was met by members of the U.S. Congress, diplomats, and Soviet and foreign journalists.

Meets With Shultz

LD070213 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0139 GMT 7 Oct 87

[Text] Washington, 7 Oct (TASS)—V.P. Nikonov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, heading a delegation of the commissions on the agro-industrial complex of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet which has arrived in the United States at the invitation of the House Committee on Agriculture of the U.S. Congress, met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on Tuesday.

During the conversation, a number of matters of relations between the USSR and the United States were touched on, including the area of security. In that connection, the necessity was established for strengthening and developing the accords reached at the recent foreign ministers' meeting in Washington.

V.P. Nikonov emphasized the importance of a further improvement in the general political atmosphere in the mutual relations between the two countries, which would assist in the development of trade, scientific-technical, cultural, and other exchanges. Nikonov confirmed the Soviet Union's readiness to develop mutually beneficial ties with the United States in various areas, including the area of the agro-industrial complex. The stepping up of Soviet-U.S. parliamentary contacts was noted with satisfaction on both sides. Those contacts are called upon to assist the growth of mutual understanding and the creation of a climate of trust in Soviet-U.S. relations.

Senate Approves Ban on Trade With Iran

LD062256 Moscow TASS in English 2216 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Washington October 6 TASS—The Senate of the U.S. Congress today voted unanimously to approve a bill banning any United States trade with Iran. The document which received 93 votes of the senators present provides for an immmediate total ban on import from Iran if President Ronald Reagan does not prove that this measure damages U.S. interests. In this case the President can delay the enforcement of the ban for a six-month period.

A bill elaborated by the House Foreign Affairs Committee envisages similar measures. The vote on the bill in the House of Representatives is expected to take place today.

White House, Congress Clash on Defense Bill

PM061421 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Oct 87 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent A. Blinov dispatch: "Who Will Gain the Upper Hand—the Legislature or The Executive?"; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Washington—"Collision Course" is the headline under which the U.S. newspaper *The Washington Post* placed a report on the bill adopted by the U.S. Senate on the 1987 military budget. It was approved by 56 votes to 42.

The bill envisions a huge expenditure, $303 billion, including appropriations for work on the SDI program, the favorite baby of the White House and the Pentagon, and also a whole series of other military programs. However, even this, judging by the assessments of the U.S. press, does not satisfy the White House.

The point is that the senators deemed it necessary to react to the growing protests against the unrestrained arms race. Democratic senators, by a majority vote, adopted an amendment to the bill compelling the administration to observe the numerical limitations on strategic armaments in accordance with the SALT II Treaty. Other amendments compel the administration to follow the traditional "narrow" interpretation of the ABM Treaty. The White House and the Pentagon want to repudiate this in the interests of accelerating the "Star Wars" program.

The White House is extremely irritated by Congress' position. In an attempt to prevent the adoption of the amendments, it once again used a proven method, citing the fact that Congress' introduction of restrictions "is tying the administration's hands" at the arms limitation talks with the Soviet Union. However, this approach did not work this time. In the near future the bill will come up for review by the Conference Committee of both chambers, which will have to reduce it to a "common denominator" and, in particular, establish a definitive total for military expenditure. Then it will be passed to President R. Reagan for his signature.

According to reports in the U.S. press, R. Reagan intends to veto the draft so that the amendments to it do not become law. A two-thirds majority vote by the members of both chambers is needed to overcome the presidential veto. The supporters of the restrictive amendments cannot count on this.

However, as *The Washington Post* reports, congressional Democrats are examining the possibility of repeatedly adopting the bill with amendments. They reckon that it will be more and more difficult for the administration to return it for revision. In the United States the fiscal year begins 3 months earlier than the calendar year, on 1 October. From this date until the annual budget is ratified, the financing of state institutions is implemented at last year's level, in this case at a lower level than the new budget draft. This will force the White House to seek a compromise way out of the situation which has arisen.

'Irangate' Scandal Not Over for Reagan

LD062013 Moscow TASS in English 1930 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Moscow October 6 TASS—TASS political news analyst Dmitriy Yakubov writes:

The U.S. Administration and President Reagan himself make attempts these days to prove that the issue of the "Irangate" scandal was removed from the agenda. More, they would like to have it closed and, moreover, forgotten. The reality shows, however, that the "Irangate" is far from closed. Circumstances revealing ever new aspects of illegal actions by senior administration officials linked with the "Irangate" emerge now and then in the U.S. political life.

As a result, the public learns what the people involved in the affair meticulously tried to conceal by confusing the congressional commission by their conflicting and sometimes just false testimony or by shredding important documents. For instance, the newspaper *Village Voice* has recently published documents showing that U.S. Justice Minister Edwin Meese, who is known to have been forced to launch the probe into the "Irangate", personally took energetic measures back in 1985 to block the investigation in Miami into the case of a Florida prison ward who in his testimony told the court in detail about the illegal weapons shipments to the Nicaraguan contras in circumvention of the congressional ban.

In other words, even at that time, that is long before the beginning of the inquiry, Meese had known well about those illegal operations but for understandable reasons was tightlipped about them.

The magazine *Congressional Quarterly* has published photo copies of the documents showing that U.S. Vice-President George Bush, who keeps alleging publicly that he is not implicated in the "Irangate" furor, had fairly good knowledge also about the illegal actions by White House officials to provide aid to the Nicaraguan contras.

This and other new facts that become public knowledge demonstrate that far from everything was disclosed during the probe. One can say that only a top of the scandal's iceberg came into focus.

American political scientists keep discussing the reasons behind the eruption of the United States' most serious foreign policy crisis in the last few years. Some of them believe that the "Irangate" serves as a dramatic illustration of the flouting of the principles underlying the U.S. Constitution.

Well-known author Gore Vidal, whom it is hard to suspect of the lack of patriotism, analyzing in the magazine *Newsweek* the consequences of the "Irangate" for the country, arrives at the conclusion that Americans will live in the republic which has stopped functioning, whose political system collapsed during the rule of the man whom Americans so thoughtlessly allowed to come to the White House. Many Americans, judging by their statements and public opinion polls, are inclined to concur with this conclusion.

Denial of Visa to Academic Criticized

PM061437 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Oct 87 p 9

[Own correspondent Iona Andronov under the "It's a 'Free, Free' World" rubric: "Who's Afraid of Professor Volskiy?"]

[Text] New York—Millions of U.S. and Soviet television viewers will be watching the second direct television linkup between Moscow and Washington on 14 and 15 October, in which deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet and members of the U.S. Congress will take part. The broadcast will be devoted to human rights problems. Even during the television debut of the two countries' legislators in September the U.S. participants demonstrated polemical aggressiveness on this score: Congressman Trent Lott called the Soviet Union a "closed society" and praised his own "open society"... That is why we would like to draw a few fresh facts to congressmen's attention before the new debate...

Learned sessions of the Third Congress of the International Federation of Latin Americanists began in the city of Buffalo (New York State) on 23 September and lasted for 4 days. Professor Viktor Volskiy—well-known Soviet academic, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and director of the Latin America Institute—was invited to deliver a paper there on Soviet research into the problems of Latin America. However, without any explanation, the U.S. Embassy in Moscow suddenly refused to issue him a U.S. entry visa. The U.S. State Department has twice declined to inform *Literaturnaya Gazeta*'s correspondent about the reason for this discrimination against the Soviet scholar. I telephoned Professor Jorge Gracia, head of the organizing committee for the International Congress of Latin Americanists, in Buffalo, and had the following conversation with him:

[Gracia] The authorities' action was condemned by congress delegates. We telegraphed an open message to Secretary of State Shultz in Washington protesting at the actions taken against Volskiy. We stated that arbitrary actions by the State Department continue to pose a general threat to the possibility of further congresses of the International Federation of Latin Americanists being held in the United States.

[Andronov] What did the State Department reply?

[Gracia] There has been no reply so far. You would scarcely expect a quick reply. Meanwhile *The Buffalo News* got involved, one of its journalists, Robert McCarthy, having learned semiofficially from the State Department that Professor Volskiy was denied a visa for having applied "too late"...

[Andronov] Untrue! According to precise information from Moscow, Professor Volskiy and a second Soviet Latin Americanist invited by you made a joint visa application to the U.S. Embassy within the set period. His colleague refused to travel to the United States as a mark of protest to the discrimination against Volskiy.

"So that's it!"—exclaimed my interlocutor. "I can now tell you what *The Buffalo News* journalist also received from the State Department a 'purely off-the record explanation'—incomprehensible to me—alleging that Professor Volskiy poses a 'risk to U.S. security.'"

[Andronov] What do you think of this story?

[Gracia] We know Volskiy as a respected academic. He has, moreover, made frequent previous visit to the United States. It is unclear who could be intimidated by his latest attandance at a learned congress or why... [Gracia ends]

Viktor Volskiy spent the whole war as an artillery battery warrant officer. In the summer of 1944 Volskiy's battery singlehandedly halted an attempted breakthrough by a large Wehrmacht unit in the foothills of the Carpathians, cut off a key mountain road, and fired on fascist stormtroopers at point-blank range for 2 days in succession. Only 18 out of the battery's 102 men survived, Volskiy himself being wounded. For this feat Warrant Officer Volskiy was awarded the Order of Lenin and the Hero of the Soviet Union Star. Is it this perhaps that has made him a "risk to U.S. security"?

Very frequently now the U.S. State Department without any satisfactory explanation denies entry visas to Soviet journalists, trade unionists, and church figures who have been invited by various U.S. organizations. Why? The aim, as I see it, is to damage the daily increasing, albeit partial, creative exchange between our countries of groups of scientists, artists, writers, muscicians, journalists, and public figures. This is very much disliked by some people here. So they put a wrech in the works, hoping thereby to provoke us into taking countermeasures reminiscent of the infamous cold war period.

U.S. Plans To Put Nuclear Reactors in Space

LD061121 Moscow TASS in English 1041 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] New York October 6 TASS — The U.S. Administration entertains plans of placing in outer space nuclear reactors and nuclear rocket engines which could be used for military and civilian purposes, reports the newspaper *New York Times*. U.S. officials say that nuclear reactors put into near-earth orbit will serve as sources of energy for anti-missile systems. They will be also necessary for future explorations, including space bases on Mars and the Moon.

The administration has signed a multimillion contact with the General Electric Company to develop a prototype of a space reactor. The atomic laboratory in Los Alamos (New Mexico State) has started investigations to develop nuclear-powered rocket engines. Both programmes are jointly financed by the Pentagon, the Department of Energy and the National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA).

China

Soviet-Chinese Talks Begin in Beijing 6 Oct

OW061429 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1200 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Another round of Soviet-Chinese political consultations opened in Beijing today. Igor Rogachev, special envoy of the Soviet Government and deputy minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Beijing for the consultations.

Observer Comments

OW070513 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1500 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Another round of Soviet-Chinese political consultations are taking place in Beijing on 6 October. In this connection, our station observer (Bdydalov) writes:

This is the 11th round of political consultations, held alternately in the Soviet and Chinese capitals biannually. Since political consultation began in Beijing in 1982, bilateral relations have improved significantly. As far as trading is concerned, the volume of bilateral trade in 1986 increased nine times over that in 1981. There is also marked progress in other spheres. Since December

1984, people from both countries have often exchanged visits. Local trading has been resumed, and meetings on Soviet-Chinese economic, scientific, and technological cooperation have been held. According to the 1986-1990 agreement for long-term mutual benefits, the first of its kind in the history of Soviet-Chinese relations, the trade volume between the two countries may reach R12 billion during the 5-year period. On the basis of the 1985 agreement on economic and technological cooperation, the Soviet Union will help China develop a total of 7 new projects, and improve, or rebuild, a total of 17 projects which went into operation in the 1950's.

Since the last round of Soviet-Chinese political consultations, ties between Soviet and Chinese legislative organizations have resumed, after being suspended for more than 20 years. In July this year, the Legislative Proposals Commission under the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet met with Chinese NPC members in China, while in August the delegation of the Chinese NPC Nationalities Committee visited the Soviet Union. Close bilateral contacts in the fields of science, technology, culture, and sports, and the frequent exchange of visits between various mass organizations from have played an important role in improving Soviet-Chinese relations.

We are not trying to say that Soviet-Chinese relations are ideal. Relations still face problems, and there are differences of opinion. However, we are adopting measures to solve the existing contradictions. Each step to further strengthening Soviet-Chinese cooperation makes the Soviet people extremely happy. The Soviet Union believes that the improvement of relations between the two great socialist nations is of great significance to world peace and to the cause of socialism. It also hopes that this round of political consultations will serve to further improve relations between the two nations.

PRAVDA on PRC Development, Ties With USSR

PM070847 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Oct 87 Second Edition p 5

[S. Sergeyev article: "Noteworthy Date. The PRC Is 38 Years Old"]

[Text] The PRC was born 1 October 1949. The long struggle of the Chinese people led by the Communists ended in a victorious revolution. The embarcation on the path of socialist development of the world's most populated country, which had cast off the yoke of semicolonial dependence on imperialist powers, was of historic significance.

The first half of the fifties was a period of extensive socioeconomic transformations in city and countryside, rapid systematic development of the national economy, and active cultural building. Together with all the progressive forces of the planet China struggled for peace and the liberation of oppressed peoples. It was a time of goodneighborly relations between the PRC and the USSR. The international solidarity and support of the Soviet Union and other socialist states was always on the side of China in resolving domestic and foreign problems.

The low level of development of production forces in China, the almost universal illiteracy of the population, deep-rooted feudal vestiges, and a number of other factors stemming from features specific to the development of Chinese society complicated the building of the foundations of socialism. As people in China note today, "after 1956 the country experienced two major errors—the great leap forward and the Cultural Revolution," as a result of which "20 years of valuable time was lost."

The Third Plenum of the CPC Central Committee, 11th Convocation (1978), whose decisions marked a serious turnabout in political policy from many unsubstantiated concepts and subjectivist deviations in favor of a practical approach to the complex problems facing China, played an important role in the country's destiny. In accordance with the plenum's decisions, which were consolidated and developed by the 12th CPC Congress in 1982, priority was given to economic building. Profound transformations began to be implemented in city and countryside. In foreign ties the same thing was to be promoted by the so-called open-doors policy oriented toward broadening ties with foreign states in every way. Developed capitalist countries are allotted a significant place in realizing this.

By the mid-eighties the PRC national economy had assumed a distinctly dynamic character. In the last 8 years the volume of the Republic's gross national product and national income has almost doubled and the population's standard of living has increased.

In the years of people's power the PRC has overcome many features of former backwardness and has achieved great successes in socioeconomic development. In comparison with 1949 production of grain in the country has increased by a factor of 3.4, cotton by a factor of 7.8, woven fabrics by a factor of 8.3, coal by a factor of 27, electricity by a factor of 100, and steel by a factor of 325. In terms of absolute indicators of industrial and agricultural production the PRC is now one of the leading 10 countries in the world, occupying first place in grain, cotton, cotton fabric, cement, and coal production, fourth place in steel smelting, fifth place in electricity production, and sixth place in oil extraction and sugar production.

At the same time the socioeconomic backwardness inherited from the past and the population's low standard of living are still making themselves felt both economically and politically. Chinese leaders' speeches point out that the PRC is in the initial stages of socialism. By the end of the century it is planned to achieve a level of "middling prosperity," which entails an increase in the national product to approximately $1,000 per capita per year.

Today the CPC is resolving the most complex tasks of accelerating socioeconomic development and is carrying out a quest for the optimum forms and methods of socialist building.

In recent years the reform of the economic system, considered in the PRC to be a second revolution, has been the main avenue of economic policy. It provides for transformations in the forms of ownership and the active use of the market's regulating role and is oriented toward creating a socialist commodity economy. The implementation of economic reform is linked with the tasks of improving the activity of party and state organs, the building of a socialist spiritual culture, and the consolidation of legality and law and order.

The cardinal improvements under way in all spheres of the country's economic and social life are giving rise to many new questions. PRC leaders' speeches and the mass media indicate that the contradictions of development are intensifying, and mistakes and blunders are being critically dissected. It is noted, in particular, that the shortage of resources, the fragmentation of capital investments, inflation, and the low level of efficiency of production and output quality is having an increasing impact. A great deal has been said recently about the impo rtance of combating bourgeois influence and opinions.

The CPC is now completing preparations for its scheduled 13th congress, which it is planned to convene 25 October. It is meeting at a crucial moment in the life of the party and the country. The congress is to give an assessment of the results of the transformations carried out in recent years, outline the path for future movement forward, and form the leading party organs. The delegates will discuss the fundamental directions for reform of the political structure with a view to uncovering more fully the advantages of the socialist system, accelerating the modernization of the Republic, and intensifying the democratization of social life.

Soviet Communists and our country's public regard with respect the goal put forward by the CPC—to build a highly developed socialist society worthy of a great people—and wish the upcoming forum of Chinese Communists productive work.

The CPSU, as is well known, thinks that no party can lay claim to exclusive possession of the truth. Practice—and for socialist countries the consolidation of socialism in action—is the supreme criterion of the correctness of any policy. The fact that the USSR and China, like other socialist countries, elaborate their political course taking specific national tasks and conditions into account, in no way precludes a certain communality in approaches to many economic and sociopolitical transformations. The reform in China and restructuring in the USSR have a number of similar directions and proceed in the common mainstream of reforms in socialist countries. This creates considerable potential, still far from fully exploited, for broadening contacts on a mutually beneficial basis, exchanging experience in building and developing a new society, and engaging in creative constructive discussions which could help to enrich the theory and practice of socialism.

The USSR notes with satisfaction that thanks to the efforts of both sides appreciable changes have taken place over the last few years in the sphere of interstate relations. Political contacts are being organized and their level is gradually rising. Talks and consultations on various aspects of interstate ties are becoming a practical reality. The Soviet-Chinese talks on border questions which began recently are proceeding in a constructive vein.

Substantial progress has been achieved in a number of areas of bilateral relations. In 1986 commodity turnover between our countries totaled R1.8 billion, an 8-fold increase to the 1982 level. New forms of economic collaboration, including the creation of joint enterprises and the organization of production sharing and barter ties, are under discussion. Collaboration between our border regions promises great prospects. The Chinese are showing great interest in the future dynamic development of trade ties with the USSR. One signifiant factor is that the two countries' economic complexes complement one another and the USSR and the PRC are not competitors on foreign markets.

Talks are under way on collaboration in China in the construction and reconstruction, with USSR assistance, of a number of power engineering, ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy, machine building, coal industry, and transport facilities. Soviet-Chinese intergovernmental commissions have been created for economic, trade, and scientific and technical cooperation and for overseeing the elaboration of a plan for the comprehensive utilization of the water and power resources of the Far East's rivers.

Official statements by Chinese spokesmen—that China needs a peaceful international atmosphere in order to implement the projected long-term plans, has an interest in stopping the arms race, and favors the development of cooperation with other countries within the framework of independent autonomous policy—are close to the hearts of and meet with the understanding of Soviet people. As is known, the PRC advocates the complete elimination of nuclear, chemical, and other types of weapons of mass destruction, a substantial reduction in conventional armaments, and a ban on siting and deploying weapons in space. The Chinese Government has announced its repudiation of atmospheric nuclear tests, supports the proposals to create nuclear-free zones in various regions of the world (in particular, it has acceded to the Tlaltelolco and Raratonga Treaties), and advocates the elimination of foreign military bases in Asia and the Pacific Ocean zone. The USSR values

China's constructive contribution to strengthening peace throughout the world and welcomes its desire to play a more active role in world affairs in line with its prestige and potential.

China is seriously studying the new Soviet ideas and proposals for creating an all-embracing system of international security contained in the article by M.S. Gorbachev entitled "Reality and Guarantees for a Secure World" and welcomes the accord in principle between the USSR and the United States on the conclusion of a treaty on medium-range and operational-tactical missiles.

The efforts of the two major socialist states in the struggle against the threat of nuclear war and for disarmament and the peoples' security have a largely similar thrust. This provides an opportunity in many instances to collaborate in international affairs on an equal and principled basis.

At present differences in approach to a number of important international problems still exist between the USSR and the PRC. Both powers have their own objectives and international obligations and their own structure of foreign policy priorities. The existence of lack of coincidence of positions must not impede the development of cooperation and the complete normalization of bilateral relations.

The Soviet leadership, as has been repeatedly pointed out, favors serious dialogue with the aim to jointly seeking mutually acceptable solutions on questions in dispute in order to help overcome existing differences of opinion when the burden of accumulated prejudices has been removed. It is important to move toward an atmosphere of mutual trust making it possible to reach political decisions without damage to the interests of the USSR, the PRC, or other states.

Guided by the 27th party congress decisions and the speeches by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in particular his July 1986 Vladivostok speech, the Soviet Union is endeavoring to establish with China relations of firm good-neighborliness and friendship in the interests of peace and socialism. The PRC also favors the improvement of relations with the USSR, seeing this as an important contribution to the cause of normalizing the situation in Asia and throughout the world.

On the day of the 38th anniversary of the formation of the PRC, Soviet people express the wholehearted wish that the selfless labor of the Chinese working class, peasantry, and intelligentsia, under the leadership of the CPC, will be crowned with new achievements and that the traditional friendship between the peoples of our countries will be developed further.

Zhao Says Preparations Complete for Congress

LD070405 Moscow TASS in English 2310 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Beijing October 6 TASS—Acting general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, premier of the State Council of the PRC Zhao Ziyang said here today that the preparation for the 13th Congress of the Communist Party of China to open on October 25 has been successfully concluded. He reported that the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee endorsed the other day the report to the congress and would submit it for the consideration of the coming plenum of the CPC Central Committee.

The Chinese leader noted that the main task of the 13th congress is to sum up the results of the past nine years and plan the further work. The question of the reform of the political structure will also be put on the agenda.

Zhao Ziyang said that the reform of political structure must be made in accordance with two principles: namely, the course at stability and cohesion in the country under the party guidance and the course at separating the functions of the party and government stage-by-stage.

Vietnamese Aircraft Reportedly 'Shot Down'

LD060943 Moscow TASS in English 0931 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Beijing October 6 TASS—A Vietnamese military plane was shot down in the afternoon of October 5 by Chinese Air Force units stationed in the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous district, the newspaper *Renmin Ribao* reports today.

"The Vietnamese plane twice intruded into the PRC's air space to a depth of more than 30 kilometres", the paper says further.

Renmin Ribao adds that the Vietnamese ambassador in Beijing was summoned to the PRC Foreign Ministry in the evening of October 5 where a protest was stated to him.

Hanoi October 6 TASS—As reported by the *Vietnamese News Agency*. A Vietnamese Air Force plane strayed off course because of bad weather on October 5 when on a training flight in the air space in the north of the country. Competent authorities are conducting a search for it.

Northeast Asia

Murakhovskiy Holds Talks in Mongolia

PM061409 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Oct 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Commission Session"]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 5 Oct—The 33d session of the Soviet-Mongolian Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation was held in the Mongolian capital 1-5 October. The Soviet delegation was led by V.S. Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and the Mongolian delegation by B. Altangerel, member of the MPRP Central Committee Politburo and deputy chairman of the Mongolian Council of Ministers.

Guided by the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 19th MPRP Congress, the commission focused on drafting measures to radically improve the efficiency of economic cooperation and pinpoint areas for long-term economic ties with Mongolia in line with the accords reached at the meeting between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and J. Batmonh, general secretary of the MPRP Central Committee, in June 1987.

On the last day of the commission session, V.S. Murakhovskiy and D. Sodnom, member of the MPRP Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Mongolian Council of Ministers, signed intergovernmental agreements "On the Basic Principles of Forming and Operating Joint Enterprises and International Organizations" and "On the Procedure for Implementing Direct Production and Scientific and Technical Ties Between Soviet and Mongolian Associations, Enterprises, and Organizations." The sides will carry out work to set up new joint enterprises and establish direct production links between related Soviet and Mongolian enterprises, based on these agreements.

The commission discussed main areas of long-term cooperation to ensure development of Mongolia's industry, agriculture, and export base.

There was a detailed discussion of "Basic Measures To Increase Livestock and Its Productivity by Reinforcing the Material and Technical Base of Livestock Breeding, Mechanizing Labor, and Improving Livestock Breeders' Labor and Social Conditions in the Period Through 2000." It is planned to help the Mongolian side increase agricultural production by reinforcing the material and technical base of state farms and agricultural associations formed with Soviet technical assistance, improving the economic management mechanism, introducing the collective and family contract, and improving rural workers' labor and social conditions.

Measures have been outlined to ensure cooperation in guaranteeing the full use of production potential at industrial enterprises built in Mongolia with Soviet technical assistance, radically improve production organization, improve technology, and ensure higher production quality.

Other economic cooperation issues were also discussed.

A protocol was signed on the results of the session, which proceeded in an atmosphere of businesslike cooperation, fraternal friendship, and complete mutual understanding.

The head of the Soviet delegation was received by J. Batmonh, general secretary of the MPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Mongolian People's Great Hural Presidium.

Japan Not To Send Minesweepers to Gulf

LD062007 Moscow TASS in English 1926 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Tokyo October 6 TASS—Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone has announced his decision not to send Japanese mine-sweepers into the Persian Gulf. At the same time he favoured partial financing of naval operations by other countries in that region "with a view to safeguarding navigation."

The Persian Gulf accounts for about 55 per cent of Japan's oil requirements. During the Iran-Iraq military conflict, its tankers were subjected to attacks on several occasions. At present a convoy of 10 Japanese tankers is sailing out of the gulf.

Kyodo Tsushin News Agency quoted Nakasone as saying that Japan would bear necessary expenditures to fit out its vessels with safety-ensuring equipment.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

SRV Economic, Political Scene Reviewed

PM091457 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Sep 87 Second Edition p 4

[Own correspondent M. Domogatskikh dispatch: "Time of Change; 2 September is Vietnam's National Holiday"]

[Excerpts] Hanoi — Exactly 42 years ago a new page was written in Vietnam's centuries-long history. The revolution that began 19 August 1945 ended in a victory for the people. Ho Chi Minh read out the Declaration of Independence in Hanoi's Ba Dinh Square before a sea of people assembled for the rally.

That was how the first workers' and peasants' state, born under the influence of the rout of Hitlerite fascism in the West and the crushing of Japanese militarism in the East, appeared in Southeast Asia. The long and costly struggle led by the Communist Party was crowned by a historic event. [passage omitted]

It is now 13 years since the free country began rebuilding its shattered economy and enhancing its economic potential and the people's living standard. The Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] in December was an important event in the SRV's life. The party forum analyzed the state of affairs in the Republic in an open, principled manner, noted positive results, boldly revealed shortcomings, and outlined a course of restructuring in economic and cadre policy.

"Guided by the decisions of the Sixth CPV Congress, our party and the Vietnamese people are making enormous efforts to renew all aspects of economic and social life to stabilize the country's socioeconomic situation and continue creating the prerequisites for implementing socialist industrialization," Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee, said in his address at a rally at Moscow's "Paris Commune" Factory in May. "To fulfill this comprehensive task and achieve our basic goals, we are reorganizing the structure of production and capital investment and focusing efforts on solving three major national economic programs — the Food Program, the Consumer Goods Program, and the Export Output Program."

In the work to boost their economy, science, and culture, the Vietnamese people receive fraternal assistance from the socialist community countries. The Soviet Union helped restore and build mines and open cuts, the 1.2 million-tonne capacity Bien Son Cement Plant, and the 440-kilowatt Pha Lai thermoelectric power station. It also helped rebuild Haiphong's seaport and construct the two-tier Thang Lung rail and motor vehicle bridge over the Red River, a house building combine, more than 100 repair and technical service stations for transportation and agricultural machinery, and dozens of other enterprises.

Vast tracts of virgin land, on which dozens of state farms grow hevea, coffee, tea, and tropical fruit, are being opened up with the USSR'S help. The first units at the country's largest hydroelectric power centers — Hoa Binh and Chian [name as published] — are about to come on stream.

New prospects for cooperation between our countries have been opened up by the Soviet-Vietnamese statement signed this May during Nguyen Van Linh's visit to the USSR and his meetings with M.S. Gorbachev. This important document stresses the growing scale of our collaboration and new approaches to questions of the two fraternal countries' socioeconomic development. These approaches, worked out at the 27th CPSU Congress and the 6th CPV Congress, demand that cooperation be more effective in socialist integration, the international division of labor, specialization, production sharing, and the more active use of socialist self-management principles.

A process of great change has begun in Vietnam's economy and sociocultural construction. This process, noted at the congress of Vietnamese Communists, will be difficult and complex, as the stagnation phenomena in the economic apparatus, and the party and state apparatus, have put a brake on development.

Tasks to ensure the country's dynamic development were discussed at the CPV Central Committee's 20-28 August plenum, addressed by Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee.

The plenum approved the CPV Central Committee Politburo report on progress in fulfilling the decisions of the Sixth CPV Congress and other party resolutions.

A resolution was adopted stating the need to eschew administrative and bureaucratic leadership methods, to carry out planning on the principles of socialist economic accountability [khozraschet], to develop enterprises' autonomy [samostoyatelnost], and to renew the economic management mechanism.

The resolution outlines measures to renew the structure of economic management, noting expansion of the independence of economic components and the rational distribution of administrative functions between central and local organs of power. Reorganizing the state administrative apparatus at all levels will be carried out in stages. The new economic management structure also puts the renewal of work with cadres on the agenda.

The plenum adopted a resolution on the work of the CPV Central Committee to firmly safeguard the principles of democratic centralism in party life, improve revolutionary fervor, and provide a scientific foundation for the CPV's leadership activity to solve new tasks.

Vietnam is greeting the 42d anniversary of the victory of the revolution at a time of fundamental change in society's spiritual and material life. These changes require that the party's forces and the people's creativity be mobilized.

BRIEFS

Business Accord with Thailand

Moscow October 6 TASS—A document on setting up joint Soviet-Thai companies was signed here today. Aspac is the name of a new company to be based in Bangkok. It was founded by the Metro Group of Thai firms and by Bangkok Bank Ltd. The Foreign Trade Associations Soyuzpromexport, Soyuzkhimexport and Mashinoexport and the USSR Bank for Foreign Trade are the Soviet share-holders of the new firm. They account for 49 per cent of Aspac's capital. The firm will purchase Soviet raw and chemical goods and organize their processing with due account for demands of the market in Southeast Asian and Pacific countries. Deliveries of Soviet machines and equipment, including loaders, are envisaged. With time, the company intends to broaden deliveries to the Soviet Union and purchases of Soviet-made machines and equipment. [Text] [*Moscow TASS in English 1220 GMT 6 Oct 87 LD*]

Near East & South Asia

Further on DRA Defense Minister's Visit

PM071307 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Oct 87 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "On an Official Visit"]

[Text] Lieutenant General Mohammad Rafi, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA defense minister, arrived in the Soviet Union 5 October on an official visit at the invitation of Army General D.T. Yazov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister.

The guest and the persons accompanying him were met at Sheremetyevo Airport by Army General D.T. Yazov, USSR defense minister; Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev, USSR first deputy defense minister and chief of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces; Army General M.I. Sorokin, USSR deputy defense minister; and other generals, admirals, and officers of the Soviet Armed Forces.

DRA Ambassador to the USSR M. Safi and Colonel A.K. Akram, military and air attache at the DRA Embassy in the USSR, were also among the welcoming party.

The state flags of the DRA and the Soviet Union were flying at the airport, an honor guard formed up on the tarmac, and the two countries' national anthems were played.

Lt Gen M. Rafi, DRA defense minister, received the report of the commander of the honor guard and inspected the formation of Soviet servicemen.

On 6 October Lt Gen M. Rafi, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA defense minister, who is on an official visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of Army General D.T. Yazov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister, visited the V.I. Lenin Mausoleum and laid a wreath. A wreath was also laid at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin Wall.

The wreath-laying ceremony was attended by Colonel General V.M. Arkhipov, commander of the Moscow Military District.

A meeting took place on the same day between Army General D.T. Yazov and Lt Gen M. Rafi. Questions of mutual interest were discussed during the warm and friendly conversation.

Taking part in the conversation were:

On the Soviet side—Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev, USSR first deputy defense minister and chief of General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces; Army General M.I. Sorokin, USSR deputy defense minister; and other officials;

On the Afghan side—DRA Ambassador to the USSR M. Safi.

Army General D.T. Yazov gave a luncheon in honor of Lt Gen M. Rafi.

Iranian Envoy's 1 Oct News Conference Noted

PM061323 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Oct 87 Morning Edition p 4

[Unattributed report: "Iranian Envoy Gives Press Conference"]

[Text] As *Izvestiya* reported yesterday, N. Hayrani Nobari, Iranian ambassador to the USSR, gave a press conference at the embassy on 1 October at which he made an official announcement on behalf of the Iranian Government.

An extremely tense and alarming situation has now taken shape in the Persian Gulf, he said. There has never been such an explosive situation in this region in all the years of the Iran-Iraq war. The United States is responsible for this, as it has concentrated large naval forces in the Persian Gulf. The United States has thereby violated Article 5 of UN Security Council Resolution 598, which requires all sides to display maximum restraint and refrain from any action that could lead to a further escalation and widening of the conflict.

The United States, the ambassador continued, is not interested in a peaceful settlement of the conflict but is trying to use the tension to interfere in Iranian internal affairs. The ambassador reminded those present that U.S. helicopters attacked the Iranian ship *Iran Ajr* in international waters on 21 September. Iran's legal right under these circumstances is to punish the aggressor. Iran will exercise this right and take appropriate counteraction, N. Hayrani Nobari concluded.

Answering a question by an *Izvestiya* correspondent as to what the Iranian Government believes must be done to normalize the situation in the Persian Gulf, the ambassador said: All foreign warships must be withdrawn from the region. We support the Soviet Union's stand on this issue.

In answer to a question about Iran's position regarding Afghanistan, the ambassador stressed that the Islamic Republic has peaceful intentions regarding this neighboring country. Iran is in favor of Soviet troops being withdrawn from the DRA. But this is what the USSR is trying to do, he noted. The United States does not want the problem to be resolved and tries to use various pretexts to interfere in Afghanistan's internal affairs, N. Hayrani Nobari said.

USSR, U.S. Officers on 'Joint Watch' in Egypt

PM061407 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Oct 87 Second Edition p 5

[Own correspondent V. Belyakov report: "Joint Watch Manned in Egypt by Soviet and American Officers"]

[Text] Ismailiya/Cairo—The two majors stepped into the small house, screwing up their eyes after the bright midday sun, a little tired, and looking forward to cool and rest. The blue berets, blue scarves, and blue emblems of the United Nations. But their shoulder straps and coats of arms were different: Aleksandr Birkin represents the Soviet Armed Forces and Donald Zedler, the U.S. Armed Forces. The Soviet and U.S. majors have jointly patrolled the road from the UN post in Ismailiya to the city of Suez.

UN military observers first made their appearance in Egypt in 1948, after the first Arab-Israeli war. It was then that a UN organ was set up to monitor the truce in Palestine. Soviet servicemen have been here since 1973.

The group is unusual in its composition: The majority of the 52 officers represent states which are permanent members of the UN Security Council: 18 Soviet, 14 French, and 10 American. They take turns doing a week's duty at the posts. They go out on patrols together and spend their leisure hours together. They often meet after work in Cairo.

I would be lying if I said that relations between the officers are totally idyllic. Their views on the world's political structure and ideological issues are too different. Discussions are sometimes very sharp. But, as U.S. Major James Walsh noted, "when you come into contact with people of different nationalities every day, you begin to realize that we are basically all the same and are all in the same boat."

"Our relationship is one of mutual understanding and cooperation," Major Zedler added, smiling.

I was interested in hearing opinions on the USSR-U.S. agreement in principle on eliminating medium-range and short-range missiles.

"It is good news," Zedler replied. "Although, in my opinion, the military significance of this accord is less than the political importance; after all, this class of missiles represents only a small proportion of the two states' nuclear potential. But we have to start somewhere! When matters go as far as halving strategic nuclear weapons, this will be a major step. I hope that this agreement will be reached by the middle of next year, as our President and Mr Gorbachev have promised."

CPSU Group Returns From Damascus Symposium

PM061155 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Oct 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Back in Moscow"]

[Text] On 5 October a group of CPSU representatives, headed by Y. N. Yelchenko, member of the CPSU Central Committee and secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, returned to Moscow from Damascus. It had been attending an international symposium "October and the Renewal of the World," pegged to the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

TRUD Discusses Persian Gulf Situation

PM071349 Moscow TRUD in Russian 30 Sep 87 p 3

[I. Persianov article under the "World Trouble Spots" rubric: "Don't Play with Fire"]

[Text] The situation in the Persian Gulf continues to attract the international community's close attention. Events are taking place which may have far-reaching consequences not just for the fate of the region but forthe world in general.

The unprecedented buildup in the foreign military presence in the region is both the background to the continuing bloody Iran-Iraq war and a consequence of the continuing threat to international shipping. The number of U.S. warships there has reached 32 and the number of military servicemen 25,000. It is estimated that there will very soon be around 80 ships belonging to NATO countries' navies concentrated in the Persian Gulf or its approaches, a more than impressive force for such a small region. That is why one can scarcely agree with U.S. National Security Adviser Frank Carlucci when he describes U.S. military might in the Persian Gulf as "pretty moderate."

The United States is not restricting itself to simply building up its forces. Qualitative changes in the U.S. Navy forces stationed in the Gulf are being effected: Smaller ships are being replaced by larger ones. The vast majority of them are no way intended for defensive operations, as the Americans maintain, but for assault operations. There has been a marked increase of late in the number of visits made to the region by high-ranking Pentagon officials, including Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Crowe and Defense Secretary Weinberger.

Washington has assigned a special role to the U.S. Central Command (Centcom) and the U.S. Navy operational command in the region, which comes under it, in its plans to establish the United States militarily in the Persian Gulf. According to information published in the magazine *Le Monde Diplomatique*, the potential for deploying "in case of necessity" an U.S. contingent totaling 600,000 men within the Centcom range of operations (centered in the Persian Gulf) is to be assured until 1989.

Even grander designs, including plans to expand NATO's zone of operations, can be seen. Washington is strenuously working on its NATO partners to this end. NATO countries represented militarily in the Gulf (which now number six, including Belgium) are thus increasingly coordinating their actions and holding joint operations. There are grounds for thinking that the

September session of the NATO military committee, held in Rome, was devoted to this question. Let us also remember that coordination of the West's actions in the Persian Gulf in the event of any extreme development of the situation was rehearsed last fall, long before the events of this summer.

A stream of statements is coming out of Washington claiming that the presence of warships belonging to the United States and other Western countries serves to ensure freedom of navigation and the defense of the West's economic (that is to say, oil) interests and also exert a "deterrent" effect on Iran. In fact, however, the buildup of the naval forces of the United States and its NATO partners in the Persian Gulf (France now has 16 warships, Britain 10, and Italy 8) has not helped improve the situation. The diplomatic illusion regarding their "stabilizing" role has been dispelled. New flare-ups in the Iran-Iraq conflict make it utterly clear that the situation in the Gulf is threatening to become a critical situation on a larger scale, bringing new colossal casualties and destruction.

According to the most conservative assessments, the Iran-Iraq war has already cost 1 million lives and caused $540 billion worth of damage. More than 330 ships have been damaged and 200 seamen killed during the "tanker war" in the Gulf.

The buildup of military forces in the Gulf is costing the United States alone $1 million a day and, according to U.S. sources, this expenditure will increase to $1.5 million. In bearing such expenditure the United States is not only seeking to drag NATO allies into the orbit of its operations but is also exerting pretty powerful pressure on countries which do not belong to the North Atlantic bloc but have considerable trading and economic interests in the Gulf. Thus, a special group has been set up in Japan headed by Deputy Foreign Minister T. Kuriyama to study "problems of the safety of ships" in the Persian Gulf and possible ways of making "indirect payments" toward U.S. naval expenses.

Meanwhile the Iran-Iraq conflict and the destabilization of the situation in the Persian Gulf associated with it are leading to the further militarization of the region. The outlay of the Arab countries not directly involved in the conflict—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and the Sultanate of Oman—already swallows up more than one-third of their national budgets. Even in 1986, which was a difficult year for them, when oil income fell to $33 billion (in 1981 it stood at $156 billion), the total expenditure of these countries on military needs was estimated by specialists at $22 billion. In terms of their defense budget per head of population, some of the aforementioned countries, as a special supplement in the *Financial Times* pointed out, occupy leading places in the world. According to the newspaper's figures, until very recently they accounted for roughly half of all defense expenditure by developing countries. The lion's share is taken up by Saudi Arabia, which in the last 10 years has spent some $150 billion.

The Persian Gulf region is thus turning into a powder keg: Enormous quantities of various sorts of weapons, and not just conventional ones, are stockpiled there. The buildup of "combustible material" in this region could become in the future a serious obstacle to the implementation of the sensible idea, expressed by the actual countries situated there, of transforming the Persian Gulf into a secure zone of peace and stability.

The increasingly frequent armed incidents between America and Iran are bound to cause disquiet, particularly since they are accompanied by calls in the United States to adopt a "retaliatory course" in its policy toward Iran, and to begin laying mines in Iranian waters in the Persian Gulf. Translating such calls into practical actions will undoubtedly mark a step diametrically opposed to any defusing of the explosive situation.

As for ensuring freedom of navigation, as the Soviet Union has repeatedly stressed, a search for a solution of the problem of mine-clearing would be expedient within the context of international efforts to improve the situation in the region as a whole. On a practical plane measures to clear mines must be combined with the withdrawal from the Gulf of all naval forces not belonging to the region, excluding minesweepers, which would remain there under UN auspices for a fixed period until the work of mine-clearing had been carried out.

It is, of course, only possible to discharge the electric atmosphere in the Persian Gulf by peaceful, collective efforts involving active UN participation.

Roundtable Discussion on Middle East Issues

LD040955 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Oct 87

[Untitled roundtable discussion program, filmed in Geneva, and chaired by Farid Seyful-Mulyukov; with the participation of Zuhdi al-Tarazi, PLO permanent representative at the United Nations; Avraham 'Oz, professor at Tel Aviv University; Pete McCloskey, lawyer and former U.S. congressman; Aleksandr Konstantinovich Kislov, deputy director of the USSR Academy of Sciences World Economics and International Relations Institute; Ahmad Tawfiq Khalil, former Egyptian ambassador at the United Nations; Latif Dori, member of the Israeli United Workers Party [MAPAM] Secretariat and secretary of the Israeli Committee for Israeli-Palestinian Peace and Dialogue; and David Watkins, former UK Labour Party MP. Al-Tarazi, 'Oz, McCloskey, Dori, Khalil, and Watkins speak in English fading into superimposed Russian translation; date of roundtable discussion not given]

[Text] [Seyful-Mulyukov] Hello, esteemed television viewers! First of all, I should explain to you why the titles of the program we are offering you appeared in French on your screens. The fact is that our program was recorded in Geneva in the Swiss Television studios, as you will be able to see for yourselves if you watch our program through to the end. Gathered around this not-quite-round table are representatives of various countries and organizations who have been brought to Geneva not by the sights of this beautiful city, the European UN center, but by matters and concerns connected with another area, the Near East. We all gathered in Geneva during September, first of all at the European and then at an international forum of nongovernmental organizations, where, in the course of a free discussion, the crying problems of the Near Eastern region were discussed. Unfortunately, they have remained such, awaiting solutions for many years. And it is no accident that the speech by the UN deputy secretary general, Diego Cordovez, at the Geneva meeting of representatives of nongovernmental organizations, featured the following depressing admission: Virtually since the very day it was founded, the United Nations organization has been trying to find ways to resolve the Near East conflict, and has devoted far more time to this than to any other international problem. Despite the wide range of opinions, a unanimcus attitude is taking shape in the world today, even if it has not become finally established, on the need to convene an international conference on the Near East, under the aegis of the United Nations.

The issue currently stands like this: How can this process be speeded up? For the idea of convening a conference is interpreted as the sole opportunity of reaching a peaceful compromise mutually acceptable to both Arabs and Israel. I therefore propose that those taking part in our television program should discuss what factors are facilitating, and which are hampering, an early convocation of an international conference on the Near East and a stable and just peace settlement in that region.

It is high time that I introduced the participants in our program: Zuhdi al-Tarazi, permanent representative of the PLO at the United Nations, member of the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament; Avraham 'Oz, professor at the University of Tel Aviv; Pete McCloskey, well-known U.S. politician, former member of the House of Representatives; Aleksandr Konstantinovich Kislov, deputy director of the Institute of World Economics and International Relations of the USSR Academy of Sciences; Ahmad Tawfiq Khalil, senior Egyptian diplomat, formerly Egypt's permanent representative at the United Nations; Latif Dori, member of the secretariat of the Israeli MAPAM party, head of the committee for Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue; and finally, David Watkins, prominent figure in the British Labour Party, for 17 years a British member of parliament, now head of the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding.

It is generally acknowledged that the Palestinian problem lies at the core of the Near East conflict. I shall therefore ask Zuhdi al-Tarazi to speak first.

[Al-Tarazi] Thank you. I am glad that we have gathered for this meeting this evening, with the most diverse representatives taking part. I consider that we should not exchange regrets about the past, nor accusations against one another, but we should try to take a glimpse into the fugure. The future of a peaceful settlement in the Near east is tied up with the destiny of 5 million Palestinians, who are holding on to their rights and their land. We are of the opinion that the meeting of representatives of various countries in Geneva underlined the importance of joint efforts in the fight to establish a just and stable peace in the Near East. Thank you.

[Seyful-Mulyukov] And now I want to turn to the representative of Israel, Mr Avraham 'Oz. I am aware that you have devoted your life to the study of the works of Shakespeare. The great writer's most famous words come to mind — to be, or not to be? This dramatic question today confronts the whole of mankind: Is there to be nuclear war, or not? The Near East conflict can also take on a nuclear tinge: This danger was mentioned by representatives of various countries at the Geneva meeting, including Israel. What do you think about this?

['Oz] I am not a specialist in the field of nuclear weapons but rather one of those people who fear nuclear war, as indeed do other participants in this broadcast.

One important point should be emphasized in particular. That is that representatives of very many countries took part in the Geneva forum. There was an unprecedently large number of representatives from Israel, and this shows that very many people in our country fear the escalation of the Near East conflict. If a new war breaks out in our region it certainly won't be like previous wars; it is therefore extremely important that peaceful dialogue should promote the prevention of such a war that would bring untold suffering, whether it be nuclear war or a conventional war involving the use of weapons of mass destruction.

That is what I would like to say in response to your question.

[Seyful-Mulyukov] Thank you. I think that before looking ahead into the future and forecasting any future conflicts, it may be possible to prevent them by the common efforts of the world community. I want to turn to the United States representative. Mr McCloskey, it is not the first time that we have met each other at international forums on the Palestinian problem. I remember very well your address in Vienna last year. You talked, in particular, about the gradual shifts in U.S. public opinion in relation to the just cause of the Arab people of Palestine. What evolution is there to be seen in the course of this year on this issue?

[McCloskey] Our great U.S. President, Dwight Eisenhower, once said that peace is far too important a thing to leave its fate to be decided by statesmen and diplomats—its fate must be decided by peoples. It is remarkable that both Palestinians and Israelis took part in the

Geneva forum, sitting opposite each other. This was a very amicable conference, and nobody said: We're going to destroy you, you're going to have these rights, and we're going to have these, and so on. I'm pleased to be seated here next to my Soviet colleague; the United States and the Soviet Union were the first, 40 years ago, to recognize Israel, and they not only recognized it, but they also wanted to set up an Arab Palestinian state. The United Nations divided what was then Palestine into two states: and Arab and a Jewish one, but it took several years for the Arabs to agree to this. Many intellectuals in Israel acknowledge that there can be no security for their country unless an Arab state is established alongside the Israeli one. I think that at this meeting everyone understands that the USSR and the United States bear a particular responsibility for the fate of peace. I doubt if anyone in the United States is currently seriously thinking about a nuclear conflict between our countries, since in the event of an exchange of nuclear strikes we will both lose everything. In World War II the Russians lost 20 million people. We Americans also do not want to lose what we've got, but there are now nuclear weapons in Israel and in other countries. The means of delivering them are now being developed there. I think that my Israeli friends are worried by the fact that politicians such as Sharon and Shamir may possibly want to use nuclear weapons. Inasmuch as the Soviet Union and the United States bear a particular responsibility for peace, they must do everything to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in this region. An international conference is essential to eliminate the conflict in the Near East. It is essential since 40 years ago we became the witnesses of the birth of one state, but did not see the birth of the other. I thank you.

[Seyful-Mulyukov] Aleksandr Konstantinovich, and how do you currently see the prospects for the Near East situation? I remember 20 years we were together in Cairo during the Six-Day War. You've been dealing for a long time with Near East problems, both at the academic and the political level. Over to you.

[Kislov] Well, now, I think that a qualitatively new stage is beginning in the development of the situation in the Near East. I think that not one of us sitting at this table could have envisaged, 1 and 1/2, or 2 years ago, all of us sitting here. And at the moment there are still people who are doing everything they can to hinder contacts, to hinder negotiations, to hinder a move toward peace. Well, here we see two Israelis who represent different public circles in Israel who are sitting at one table with a representative of the PLO. From my point of view, it is an utterly and qualitatively new stage, and a promising stage.

But have the issues now been resolved? Can we say that we have already overcome all those difficulties, which, for a whole range of decades, confronted both the Near East states and other countries striving to somehow find a solution to the Near East, or to put it more precisely, the Arab-Israeli conflict? Why, over these 40 years that the Arab-Israeli conflict has been in existence, mankind has more than once been on the edge of a global clash, a global confrontation. We know now that preparations are underway to proliferate nuclear weapons in the Near East. So, from this perspective as well one should double and treble efforts aimed at resolving the Near East conflict. From this point of view as well there is a qualitatively new situation there, and in the world in general there is now a qualitatively new situation. Why? The world has become more interdependent than ever before. The idea is gaining ground more and more that it is only possible to solve the very complex problems of an Arab-Israeli settlement on a collective basis.

[Seyful-Mulyukov] Ahmad Tawfiq Khalil represents Egypt, the largest and only Arab country to have a separate peace treaty with Israel. What happened in the Near East after the conclusion of the well-known Camp David agreements is well know to Television viewers. We will ask Ahmad Tawfiq Khalil to tell us how the problems of a Near East settlement are viewed at the moment in Eygpt. Go ahead please.

[Khalil] Thank you. Thank you. As regards the Israeli-Egyptian aspect of the conflict in the Near East, I think that this part of the problem has been resolved. But in other respects, the crisis in this region, after so much suffering, after unsuccessful experiments and attempts, continues. I would like to emphasize that throughout this time Egypt has and continues to believe that it is impossible to achieve a Near East settlement until the key problem, the Palestine problem, is resolved. We do not harbor any illusions, and very many people in the world believe the same, namely that there will not be any stability in the Near East unless the Palestinians' national rights are restored, and first and foremost their right to self-determination. This factor cannot be removed. Attempts have been made to foist on the Palestinians a solution by military means; these have met with total failure. You cannot put off endlessly a just solution to the Palestinian problem and demote it into second place until elections are held in this or that country. I think it is important to note the following: We must all understand — in the given instance I'm not talking about those present here in Geneva — that if the rights of the Arab people of Palestine are not guaranteed, there will be neither peace nor order in this region. At the moment we are on the threshold of a new escalation in the arms race in the Near East, a qualitative change in it. For the first time this presents not just a regional, but possilby a global threat. What I have in mind is the appearance of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles in our region.

[Seyful-Mulyukov] You're thinking about the Israeli-manufactured Jericho missiles, which I think have a range of 1,500 kilometers and were tested recently, yes?

[Khalil] Not necessarily just those missiles; as the experience of large and small states shows, even smaller missiles can sharply exacerbate the problem of security.

When country "a", whether justly or unfoundedly, considers that certain arms are essential for its security, this inevitably also causes a reaction in country "b", which tries to re-establish the balance, and this is where the danger lies. As we can all see, negotiations are the only reasonble means for a settlement that stimulates hopes for success. Here we approach the issue of an international conference on the Near East. The conflict in this region affects the interests not only of its peoples, but also presents a danger for many other countries. Thus it is essential that the whole of the international community should be convinced that a peace conference on the Near East is absolutely essential. Much can be done in preparation for such a conference by nongovernmental organizations and the public. We must meet, argue, maybe even sharply; but these will be arguments about ways and means that will allow us to find the only reasonable and peaceful way for the Near East settlement, which is essential for our joint survival.

[Seyful-Mulyukov] Thank you, Mr Khalil. I want to give Latif Dori the floor. As I have already told Television viewers, he heads in Israel the committee which advocates an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. What influence does your work have on Israeli public opinion? What are the main trends of public opinion at the moment? Please, Mr Dori.

[Dori] In order to guarantee peace among peoples, it is best to maintain dialogue between them. I can say that in recent years we have not had dialogue with our Palestinian friends, and we started one in earnest last year. A considerable proportion of Israeli public opinion, more and more people in our country, is prepared to enter into dialogue with the PLO, because it is the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and we can talk about peace only with that representative. Last year we sent an Israeli delegation to meet with delegates from the PLO. This was done even after the Knesset, our parliament, passed a law according to which Israelis who enter into dialogue with Palestinians from the PLO will be put into prison for 3 years. We violated that law because we love our country, we love our people. We know that this land is not just for the Jewish people, and not only for the Palestinians. It is the common homeland of the two peoples, and this problem must be resolved. When we return home, perhaps there will be a trial, and they might send us to jail. But we are ready to pay this price for peace. The future of our country and of our people can only be ensured by way of establishing peace between us. In Geneva I have said that if we do not shake each other's hand, we shall brandish guns. I am for the first option. Thank you.

[Seyful Mulyukov] We have another respected participant in the television program, David Watkins, who is considered the British Labour Party's expert on Near East probems. One must not underestimate the role and responsibility of Western Europe in resolving the Near East conflict; here in Geneva, a lot has been said about the geographical proximity and the historical, cultural, and economic ties between the European and Near East states. But if one looks at the root of things, one has to admit that for long years Western Europe manifested a coolness, perhaps even a passivity, in the face of the Near East tragedy. However, in recent years there have been shifts there as well. Mr Watkins, how do you view the problem of removing the obstacles in the conflict situation in the Near East, from a European, and primarily British, point of view? Carry on, please.

[Watkins] The Near East has become the most dangerous hotbed for potential explosion. I was in Beirut in 1982, directly after the town was besieged by Israeli troops. And it has to be said that during this war, the most powerful kinds of weaponry were used. We must not ignore the fact that so-called conventional weapons are a terrible destructive force. And now, moreover, there exists the danger that a local conflict might turn into a nuclear clash. There is just one alternative for such a situation, I think, the convening of an international peace conference on the Near East, with all the participants in the conflict sitting at the negotiating table. I do not think we will be able to achieve a settlement of this conflict on a separate, bilateral basis. Public organizations in Western Europe, and in my country in particular, are exerting great pressure on governments. The overwhelming majority of them are now advocating the staging of an international conference with the PLO taking part as the sole plenipotentiary of the Palestinian people. It is important for all sides in the conflict to gather at the negotiating table, and for the Palestinians to hold a dialogue with the Israelis on a broad and equal basis. I think that is the only sensible way now open. A Near East settlement is a most important international problem, and it is necessary to have as broad as possible a peace conference for the settlement of all aspects of the conflict. Let me tell you about one incident. Several years ago, I was invited to speak in a London synagogue in order to set forth the problems of the Palestinian people. And this is what was interesting: After the meeting ended, the chairman said: I would like to find out how many of those gathered here consider that Shim'on Peres—he was the Israeli prime minister then—should meet immediately with Yasir 'Arafat to begin talks. When the people voted by just raising their hands, we saw that the majority—two or three to one—the majority was in favor of these talks. Such is the opinion of many representatives of the Jewish population in my country, and not just in my country, I think. Of course, the sentiments of the public in Western Europe do change, but it is interesting that the stand of the nongovernmental organizations has always been in favor of an international conference on the Near East. They have energetically struggled for the governments of the West European countries to adopt a more acceptable position in the Near East conflict, and have advocated the convening of a conference and recognition of the PLO.

[Seyful Mulyukov] Thank you. We have, as it were, gone the first part of our way. Those who have spoken have noted some very important problems facing the peoples of the Near East region, but somehow have diverted from the main topic, which I set in my introduction: What promotes and what hinders the process of preparing for an international conference on the Near East? I think we will now give our discussion a little more dynamism, more freedom. Who would like to start the discussion in the second part? Mr 'Oz, carry on.

['Oz] In my opinion, from everything that has been spoken of here, one could single out one conviction that we all have in common — that the Near East conflict can be resolved by means of peaceful negotiations, and it is precisely an international conference that is needed for that, with all interested parties taking part. I think we need to get a clearer idea of the situation that has come about in Israel. Let me remind you of one important event, the big protest demonstrations against the invasion of Lebanon. Mr Latif and I took part in them. In the 3d week of the war, and this was unprecedented, 20,000 people joined in an antiwar demonstration. Following the massacres in Sabra and Shatila, there was a demonstration with 400,000 people taking part. You must agree, that is a very big number for a country with a population of 4 million. Both those who went into the streets and the sympathizers who stayed at home were simply shaken by these events. We have some eloquent evidence—General Sharon himself stated that the protests and demonstrations hampered the staging of many military operations in Lebanon.

One drew the following conclusion from this: We are all agreed that Israel must have security, but there are people both in Israel and in other countries who equate that security with arms. Israeli public opinion exerts a very great influence on the government, because the government can only implement its policies with the consent of the voters, as expressed at least once every 4 years. This is all the more important for a coalition government, and I think that the fundamental task for peace-loving forces in Israel is to convince the public that security is not synonymous with an arms race, but synonymous with peace, with conferences, and with meetings such as ours.

I think that world public opinion should help us in this. As Mr Latif has said, there are already positive results. As soon as this process gets started it will develop irresistably. And I think that one of the largest obstacles along the road to peace in our region will then be removed.

[Seyful Mulyukov] Mr al-Tarazi, I think you want to say something. Do you want to contribute to the conversation Mr al-Tarazi? Go ahead please.

[Al-Tarazi] Thank you. It is important to know our position. The official policy of the PLO is to hold meetings with representatives of various forces from Israel. That indeed is why we are here. That reflects the realistic approach of the Palestinian leadership and our legislative organ, the Palestine National Council. We think that it is vitally important to achieve a peaceful settlement on behalf of our people and for the future of the Israelis as well as for other Arab peoples. Peace, of course, demands several compromises, and we are ready to make such compromises and are doing so. However we do not use security issues as a pretext to try in reality to hinder the achievement of peace.

But how do Israeli ruling circles act? They have adopted a law to prevent such meetings. In order to prevent peace being achieved they are already brandishing nuclear weapons. But if Israel has atom bombs, then its neighbors will want to have not only conventional types of weaponry but nuclear ones as well. In my opinion that indicates the absence of any desire on the part of the Israeli leaders to seek paths toward a peaceful settlement in the Near East.

My friend McCloskey said that the United States and the Soviet Union were the first to recognize the State of Israeli but there are considerable differences between the positions of the two powers. The Soviet Union continues to insist on the Palestinian people being granted its legitimate rights while the U.S. Administration has repeatedly stated officially that self-determination for the Palestinian people is not consistent with its foreign policy. How can there be any hope of achieving peace with a people which is refused the right to self-determination. We are virtually refused the right to life, and those obstacles about which you were talking do indeed constitute denial of this sacred right.

The United States maintains that it does not wish to have any dealings with the PLO. I think that is simply absurd.

[McCloskey] Let me say a few words from the standpoint of the United States. We talked about obstacles to peace. There are three of them. Two are connected with the position of the U.S. Administration and the Israeli government. One of the chief gains of true democracy is freedom of speech. This is how it manifests itself. A law has been adopted in Israel forbidding Israelis to establish contacts with Palestinians. The White House has taken a decision to forbid Palestinians to speak publicly in the United States. That is an absurdity. How do we look to our friends who place a high value on democracy. We are not like America in the days of Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln.

Five of us seated at this table will return home in safety while the two representatives of Israel, Dr 'Oz and Mr Dori risk being put behind bars when they return to their homeland. Mr al-Tarazi might be blown up when he goes to Tunis. If, let's say, he goes to Baghdad, Israel might drop bombs on Baghdad too, while in Lebanon you may begin to be bombed for sure.

[Al-Tarazi] If I go back to Jerusalem where my home is maybe I'll be safe there

['Oz] You'd be most welcome.

[McCloskey] One of the striking things which came up at the Geneva meeting was that we Christians, people who worship Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Americans who visit Israel, cannot go to Nazareth, [as heard] but the mayor of Nazareth was at the Geneva forum. He is a jolly, smiling, robust man, and when he goes back then he will have to be met at the airport in Israel with television cameras because nobody can tell what will happen to him when he returns.

How can public opinion in the United States on the Palestinian problem be changed? It took 7 years to turn our public opinion against the Vietnam war. I think that many years will be needed for changes in public opinion in Israel and the United States.

There is another barrier and I have a bone to pick here with Mr al-Tarazi. In trying to monopolize public opinion in the United Staes supporters of Israel usually employ the argument that the Arabs want to destroy the State of Israel and will never recognize it. Many U.S. citizens believe that because they are told the Arabs want to destroy Israel and liberate the whole of Palestine. If the Palestinians clearly stated that they recognize the right of the State of Israel to exist, then they would take the strength out of the argument used against Dr 'Oz, Mr Dori, and myself in our own countries to try to manipulate public opinion.

The chairman of the PLO said more or less that. Yasir 'Arafat stated in Geneva: We are ready to fulfill all UN decisions including the one on the creation of Israel, and also Resolution 242. However the United States calls on the Palestinians to accept Resolution 242 but does not insist that Israel should accept it. But surely it demands that Israel withdraw from the West Bank, the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. Many people in the United States are simply unaware that Israel is violating international law in refusing to withdraw from the occupied territories.

Over 40 years ago, when the United National was formed, we asserted that no state should expand its territory by use of force. But through its policy the United States allowed Israel to expand its borders in 1948, 1956, and 1967 and allows it to do so today. Washington says that it will not hinder Israel in further expansion. But there are indeed forces in Israel which state that they should not just stop at the West Bank but should go even further than the West Bank. That is what must be shown to public opinion in the United States and in Israel. When we go back home we shall try to explain this problem in just that way.

[Al-Tarazi] Allow me to say something more. You may recall that Yasir 'Arafat asked the State Department to invite the Israeli Government to the negotiating table. But unfortunately the State Department did not respond to this request. You were talking about obstacles and compromise, but what is more important is that everyone needs peace. Fourth and fifth generations of Palestinians must not be allowed to live in refugee camps. A fourth generation of Israelis must not be allwed to live in a state of war. We must think not only of the appearance in the area of nuclear weapons. To be sure Beirut was destroyed by conventional weapons, and we are now threatened too by conventional but none-the-less very destructive means of obliteration.

We met to discuss and outline paths, a basis for seeking peace but at the same time Israeli aircraft bombed Palestinian refugee camps in south Lebanon, killed peaceful people, women, and children. That then is their answer.

We are very grateful that Dr 'Oz and Mr Dori came here, but the official position of Tel Aviv is different. I think that the task of our Israeli colleagues when they return home is to try to ensure that the antiwar movement in Israel is transformed into a mighty force. That indeed is how they can help us.

[Mccloskey] The best way to help them organize this peace force, the best way to help stop the bombing of refugee camps is to explain that the Palestinians recognize the right of Israel to exist as an independent state. That would allow our Israeli friends to achieve in 2 years more than they have achieved in 5.

[Kalil] I think that it is unfair to demand that the Palestinians make more concessions, and make them in advance, what's more. Israel declares that it wants to hold talks, but only bilateral talks. In my opinion, at such talks Israel will discuss the issue of the occupied territories, deliberately with a weaker party than itself. It is often asked why Egypt and other Arab countries want the PLO to participate in the international conference. We want interantional law to serve as the criterion in this matter, and not diktat. Oue could go further, and say that Israel's official stance consists in precisely this. It refuses to give its consent to a conference, referring to the issue of representation of the Palestinians.

[Sayful Mulyukov] David Watkins would like to say something.

[Watkins] Thank you. Something that concerns me in the matter of peace talks on the Near East is that the concessions are always expected of the Palestinians. And when the Palestinians accept major concessions, every time new obstacles arise, now demands are made of them. In particular, what about Resolution 242? The PLO has made its position on this issue clear. There are many shortcomings in the resolution. It says nothing about self-determination of the Palestinians. They are called refugees. Secondly, Israel itself does not, in practice, recognize Resolution 242, which bans the seizure of territory by force and calls for it to withdraw from the occupied Arab lands. The matter concerns not just recognition of Israel's right to exist, but a very real colonization of the territory of others, which is going ahead continuously. Recently I received a letter from our foreign secretary, Geoffrey Howe, in which he said that we cannot recognize the PLO until it rejects terrorism and recognizes Resolution 242. Well, I think I have made clear in what I just said the basic points of my reply to the letter.

[McCloskey] We are both in a minority in our countries.

[Watkins] Well, I don't think I am in such a minority in my country as you are in yours. You have further to go.

[Kislov] It seems to me that when we talk about Israel and the Israelis, in this case we must nevertheless draw some distinctions. At our table we have two representatives of Israeli public opinion, who quite definitely and firmly state that they were against the invasion of Lebanon in 1982, and who now take a stand showing their sincere desire for peace in the Near East. But there are also other quarters in Israel, and unfortunately I do not so far see any grounds to assert that the position of the circles trying to impose their own kind of peace, a pro-Israeli peace in the Near East, has weakened significantly. I do not, unfortunately, have any information to support that.

It has been said, quite correctly, that everyone desires a settlement. That is quite so, everyone desires one. But the question is, what kind of settlement? By what means? On what basis? I, for instance, am profoundly convinced that both in the countries of Eastern Europe and in particular in the United States, there exists among the broad circles of the population a completely distorted idea of what is going on in the Near East, of the reasons for the tragedy that this part of the world and its population has been experiencing for 40 years now, and of what has to be done to bring about a resolution. Even at this table we go on about the issue of Resolution 242. Well, several days ago we all heard the speech by Yasir 'Arafat, who said quite clearly once again, reaffirmed once again that the PLO accepts all the resolutions of the United Nations concerning this problem, the problem of a Near East settlement, both resolutions of the General Assembly and the resolutions of the Security Council, including, as he stressed, Resolutions 242 and 338. But at the same time, we must also recognize that far from everyone understands this, far from everyone, that for 40 years anti-Arab, anti-Palestinian propaganda has been creating a completely distorted idea in the minds of millions of people in many countrties about what is really going on in the Near East. And we must think about this, we must try to introduce radical changes in the ideas of West Europeans, Americans and perhaps residents of a number of other countries and parts of the world about the ways for a genuine, lasting, and just peace in the region.

[Seyful Mulyukov] Avraham 'Oz, you want to say something, do you not?

['Oz] I am not saying anything here that I would not say at home. We are talking about the Palestinians' right to self-determination. When we dpeak of the self-determination of the Palestinian people, we are beyond doubt thinking about territorial self-determination. At all the demonstrations and at all the public meetings in Israel, we talk about the need to settle this problem, the need for the existence in parallel of two states, an Israeli one and a Palestinian one. But it is not so simple to bring this idea home among the Israeli public. For that reason I personally, and my colleagues, to a considerable extent feel satisfaction following the speech by Yasir 'Arafat, because he spoke about recognition of the UN resolutions. It would be important for the PLO—naturally, this has to be said in a very careful and considered way—to state that it recongnizes the State of Israel and its right to exist. That would be a big step forward.

[Khalil] I would like to say a few words about Camp David. We do not now say much about this in Egypt, and the only person who openly speaks in favor of Camp David is Shamir. Although we paid a heavy price for Camp David, perhaps it had some impact. The fact is that Egypt was for a long time Israel's fiercest enemy, and it was shown that we could achieve agreement even with Israel, when we sat at the table. And this demonstrates once again the urgency and the possibility of an international conference. Right from the start we have striven for a comprehensive settlement. We had no illusions that we would be able to achieve stability in the Near East without resolving the Palestinian problem. Neither do we have any doubt that Camp David was a total failure concerning the Palestinian issue.

[Kislov] The whole point is that really I can assure you that, let's say, certain Egyptians who were in favor of the Camp David agreements and subsequently the peace treaty with Israel really had good intentions, but to be sure we all know the old saying: The road to hell is paved with good intentions. If we look from the vantage point of the present day on those nearly 10 years, or 9 years to be precise, which have transpired since the first Camp David agreements, then we shall see where that led us: to the Lebanese hell. I think that it was no mere hazard that the June 1982 aggression against Lebanon began literally 3 months after the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty came into force.

[McCloskey] Of course there is a connection here. Let me return to what was said earlier. The problem does not lie in demanding yet more unjust concessions from the Palestinians now. We all agree that the obstacles along the road to a peaceful settlement in the Near East now emanate from two governments, the governments of Israel and the United States. And the only way of forcing these governments to change their position is to influence them by using public opinion. And a statement by the Palestinians on recognizing Israel could help change that public opinion. I don't want to say that as a representative of the United States. I love my country as we all love our countries, but I think that changing U.S.

public opinion is the real field of battle for Palestine, the field of battle for the restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. It is not the United Nations where we have a veto and where you have a veto but it is with the U.S. public, and to a lesser degree the Israeli public. I call on you to do everything that will help change public opinion in favor of justice for the palestinians.

And here is another thing. We live in conditions where there is nuclear confrontation. Ahead of us lies a new meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and ronald reagan. Our foreign ministers achieved an important success on questions of nuclear arms control, and I think that the question of nuclear arms control in the Near East should be on the agenda. In eliminating nuclear missiles from European territory we must not be reconciled with them appearing just around the corner in the Near East. I know what sort of system we have for tracking and warning. You have the same sort of systems. A siren goes off, light go on. If there is an exchange of nuclear strikes in the Near East then, in conditions of nuclear confrontation, you cock your triggers. Our pilots, submarine captains and everyone will put their weapons onto combat readiness. We are talking about the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. If Israel does not sign a treaty on that then I think we should not offer then any help. I don't think anyone will object to that.

[Khalil] But unfortunately you are financing the Israeli military program.

[Kislov] Furthermore, we all know that there exists in the United States a law according to which the United States must cease economic aid to a country that tries to or succeeds in creating nuclear weapons. And as we all know, this has now been published by the CIA in the United States, and in this case I am inclined to believe this organization— it has been publishing data for many years—and recent events....

[McCloskey—interrupting] You believe the CIA?

[Kislov] Specifically on this issue. There is such a law in the United States, but they know perfectly well and even publish official statistics showing that Israel has nuclear weapons. There is now the trial of Vanunu about which we have talked a great deal recently, another confirmation that Israel's creating, has created a nuclear potential, but the United States continues to give many thousands of millions in aid to Israel along State channels.

[Al-Tarazi] Here is what surprises me. The United States has stopped contributing to civilian aid projects in Israel, while at the same time it continues to give it aid in the military field and helps create a nuclear threat. That is madness.

[Dori] I would like to say to my friend Khalil that there are two sides to the coin. We used the peace with Egypt to say this to our people. Ten years ago nobody believed that we would be able to make peace with Egypt. That is one side of the coin. We proved that concluding peace is possible if we return territory. We returned territory we had siezed from Egypt, and we achieved peace. If we withdraw troops from all occupied Arab territories, the Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, the West Bank of the River Jordan, the Golan Heights then there will be peace and we will become friends.

The problem is that the leaders of Israel, especially Prime Minister Shamir, are fanatics. He believes that the occupied territories belong to his father, belong to him, to his forefathers. That is the problem, and he really does believe all that.

A few weeks ago Shamir said that even if the PLO recognizes Israel we will still not recognize it. After that it is very difficult to ask our Palestinian colleague, please do this for us. This is very important to us. I can see this myself very well in view of what is going on in the Palestinian camp

[McCloskey] Tell me, how many people in Israel think Israel was created not by UN resolution 181 but by God. What is the difference? Many people think that it was simply a gift of God.

[Dori] We have no official statistics. I want to add another few words. I think that the main obstacle on the road to peace is primarily the policy of the United States. We have said clearly that if the United States of America puts pressure on any Israeli Government, then I am sure that it will recognize the PLO and start peace talks with it. But if our senior partners says everything is fine, everything is in order, there is no need to recognize self-determination for the Palestinian people, then there is no need to recognize the PLO either.

On the other hand, I think that the key to peace in the Near East does not lie in our hands. It does not lie in the hands of Israel or in the hands of the Palestinians. It lies in the hands of your two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union. And we must ask the United States and the Soviet Union to conclude an agreement. That is where we must start. If such an agreement is achieved then I am sure that it will be much simpler to secure an international conference. Without such an agreement there simply won't be any conference because Mr Shamir always replies no, no, no. We call him Mr No, since he never says anything but no.

[Kislov] I don't think that the way you put certain issues is quite correct. I agree with you that a great deal depends on what policy is pursued in the Near East by the United States and the Soviet Union. A very great deal does depend on that. But I am profoundly convinced that neither the Soviet Union nor the United States individually or together can impose a Near East settlement. Therefore it seems to me that the United States and the Soviet Union, acting together or in parallel along a certain direction, can promote the creation of conditions for the Near East countries themselves to reach agreement among themselves, to reach a settlement. And on that level, participation by both the Soviet Union and the United States in an international conference could play a very positive role. It is indeed on this level that attempts, let's say, to exclude the Soviet Union from participating in a Near East conference are doomed to failure firstly, and secondly, only serve to promote the worsening of the situation, the aggravation of the situation in that region.

Now I want to note one more thing....

[Dori—interrupting] I said that the main obstacle is the policy of the United States.

[Al-Tarazi] Let met give you this example. We all have children. And anyone can say to his son or his ward. Look I'll pay for you to go to school, for your education and for your food. But I won't give you money to take girls out. What is being asked of the United States? If they are really so good to Israel then they must not give over $1,000 a year in aid per head of population. Perhaps on purely human grounds they should give no more than they give to their own U.S. citizens. That would only promote the achievement of a settlement. It would not be imposing an agreement.

[Kislov] In this case I agree with you, not 100 percent, but 200 percent. But there's another thing I'd like to say. For many years, both in the United States and in many other countries, a theory which has come to be called the zero sum game has been well known and I would say has even been very popular. According to this theory, if in relations between two powers of groups of powers one side wins, the other side loses exactly the same amount, and there is a zero sum. You win, and the Israelis lose, or vice versa. But I think the time has long since come to abandon this theory. Now, more and more in our interdependent world, we come face to face with circumstances where both sides can win—as in the present case, in a settlement in the Near East, every side wins, who can lose through a Near East settlement? I can't see any such party, and nobody has ever given me an answer when I have asked the question: Who can lose on the basis of a really just settlement in the Near East? On the other hand, we can all lose, all of us, without exception, if there is a new flare-up, if there is a new conflict (?leading to) global confrontation. Then we all lose.

[Seyful Mulyukov] Our program is coming to an end. As in any complex and varied picture, it is difficult to single out particular colors, and in the Near East panorama it is all the more difficult to do so. Even the most experienced of politicians and researchers have been hard put to forecast the watersheds in this region, a seething one full of contradictions and with various interests. But one thing is clear, that banking on force, on fresh military flare-ups in the Near East, on manipulation of the level of tension and confrontation, is fraught with the most serious consequences, both for the peoples of the region and for the world as a whole. The world community can no longer reconcile itself to constant tension, to chronic tension, in the Near East. Today understanding is growing worldwide of the inevitable fact that it is finally time to launch the process of a just and lasting settlement in the region.

In conclusion, I would like to extend sincere thanks to all who have taken part in our program, and to say thank you very much to my Swiss colleagues working in Geneva Television, who have made this program for Soviet viewers. Thank you, and good bye.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Malagasy Foreign Minister Interviewed

PM061345 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Sep 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS correspondent report: "Madagascar-USSR: Understanding One Another"]

[Text] Antananarivo, 28 Sep—The date 29 September 1972 marked the birth of dynamic, mutually advantageous relations between the Democratic Republic of Madagascar and the USSR, when they signed an agreement establishing diplomatic relations, Malagasy Minister of Foreign Affairs Jean Bemananjara stated here.

Thus was laid the foundation for relations of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation between our countries, he said in a TASS interview. The Soviet and Malagasy peoples understand each other well and act together because we have common goals and interests, especially the struggle against colonialism, imperialism, racism, apartheid, and the struggle for the ideals of peace, justice, and democracy in international relations.

When assessing situations in the international arena which threaten a stable peace, our two states' positions often coincide. We are actively striving to achieve a controlled reduction in weapons of mass destruction, ban the militarization of space, and convene a disarmament conference. We creating nuclear-free zones, settling all conflicts by direct negotiations between the parties concerned, and all states' repudiating any imperialist, expansionist, and hegemonist aspirations. Therefore, in response to the U.S. "Star Wars" program, Malagasy President Didier Ratsiraka submitted to the United Nations a peace initiative for strategic development.

Prevention nuclear war is the primary task of the day. Madagascar supports the proposals of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to completely eliminate nuclear weapons by the year 2000 and create an all-embracing system of international security. Madagascar welcomes the success of the USSR's important initiative to reduce medium- and shorter-range nuclear missiles and urges the USSR and the United States to continue along the path of completely eliminating nuclear weapons.

The struggle to transform the Indian Ocean into a peace zone is one of the main avenues of our foreign policy. The Soviet Union supports Mozambique's position, which is based on the principles of ensuring the freedom and security of civilian shipping, reducing forces and armaments, eliminating military bases in the Indian Ocean, and implementing measures to facilitate the task of creating a peace zone. Madagascar and the USSR are doing everything necessary to convene an international conference on the Indian Ocean in Colombo, which, from our viewpoint, may be the preparatory stage for the summit conference on the Indian Ocean in Antananarivo, proposed by the Malagasy president.

We can pride ourselves on economic collaboration with the USSR in areas such as agriculture, mining, transport, and information, J. Bemananjara said. Signing economic and trade agreements indicates our countries' and peoples' desire for cooperation on the principles of equality, respect, and mutual advantage. The USSR buys coffee, spices, and other goods from Madagascar. Madagascar imports agricultural equipment, automobiles, oil, cement, and aircraft equipment from the USSR. The possibilities for developing economic relations in the future can be assessed optimistically. The most important cooperation projects in the near future are the construction of the Vatomandry-Marolambo road, the flour-milling combine in Toamasina, the expansion of the sowing areas at the experimental grain crop farm at Antsirabe, and the creation of rice plantations at Yazafu [name as published]. Experimental work is under way in tuna fishing and geological prospecting for rare metals and quartz.

Ilichev Meets Zairean Foreign Ministry Aide

PM061039 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Oct 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Exchange of Opinions Held"]

[Text] Kabala Kiseka Seka [name as published], secretary of state for foreign affairs of the Republic of Zaire, stopped over in Moscow 30 September through 3 October.

The Zairean guest saw the sights of Moscow and was received by USSR Deputy Foreign Minister L.F. Ilichev. During the talks between L.F. Ilichev and Kabala Kiseka Seka, there was a businesslike and frank exchange of opinions on international problems, as well as on questions of Soviet-Zairean relations.

Fish Industry Workers Visit Mozambique

PM071317 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 7 Oct 87 p 3

[TASS report: "Help From Friends"]

[Text] Maputo, 6 Oct—Cooperation with the Soviet Union plays an important role in supplying the people of Mozambique with food, Joaquim Jose de Almeida, the republic's secretary of state for fisheries, said Monday. He received a delegation of the Soviet fish industry workers trade union central committee led by F.M. Korovin, secretary of the trade union central committee.

We are satisfied with the state of cooperation with the USSR in the fishing industry, which is particularly important for us in view of the shortage of foodstuffs in the country, J. de Almeida said. The joint Soviet-Mozambican "Mosopeshka" Fish Industry Association—the largest enterprise in the sector, which supplies two-thirds of Maputo's demand for fish—merits a high appraisal. There are considerable fish resources in Mozambican waters, the secretary of state noted, and we hope they will continue to be exploited in close cooperation with the Soviet Union.

East Europe

Powerful Explosion At Soviet Training Base

LD061703 Wroclaw Domestic Service in Polish 1607 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] There has been a powerful explosion, caused by explosive materials, at a Soviet Army unit's field training center near Boleslawiec. We have been informed by the press spokesman of Jelenia Gora Voivoda that there are no dead or injured civilians and soldiers.

In several localities nearby windows were blown out of buildings and slates fell off the roofs. In some buildings roof structures were damaged. Following the accident, a Polish-Soviet commission was set up to estimate the losses caused by the explosion.

Falin Views on 4-Power Agreement Examined

LD061648 Hamburg DPA in German 1532 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] East Berlin (DPA)—Igor Maksimychev, charge d'affaires of the Soviet Embassy in East Berlin, has described reflections by German expert Valentin Falin about possible changes in the Four-Power Agreement on Berlin as being "purely theoretical in meaning." Speaking to journalists today, he said he sees no realistic possibility of replacing the Four-Power Agreement "with some equivalent." There is also no need for this, because the agreement functions well.

Falin, former Soviet ambassador in Bonn and now head of the Soviet news agency *Novosti*, formulated his remarks philosphically, Maksimychev said. It is "difficult to maintain that something in the world is eternal," but it could hardly be believed that Falin, who was one of the main people involved in negotiating the agreement, would "so thoughtlessly put the final result of his efforts at risk."

Two weeks ago Falin said that during normalization between East and West, the Four- Power Agreement must "not be the last word." If the process of detente and disarmament could be continued, then "something greater" than the status of a city that has so far been regulated by the Four-Power Agreement is involved. Various "very interesting models" are conceivable.

In an interview with Finnish journalists, GDR state and party leader Erich Honecker said on this that "one can live well with the agreement as it presently exists." If Falin sees a possibility "of improving something in this agreement" he should discuss it with the three Western powers.

Maksimychev also said that a remark regarding the border barriers in Germany attributed to Chernyavskiy, the embassy counsellor at the Soviet UN mission in Geneva, had been exaggerated and "played up." He is "far from thinking that Chernyavskiy actually said what is attributed to him." According to press reports, the embassy counsellor said that "this wall will quite soon no longer exist," and "it has reached its last days." It is easy to see that there has been a "slip of the tongue," the charge d'affaires said, "which was enlarged into a statement."

West Europe

Finnish President Koivisto Continues Visit

Exchanges Views With Ryzhkov

LD062004 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Oct 87 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Conversation With the Finnish President"]

[Text] Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and President Mauno Koivisto of Finland met in the Kremlin on 6 October.

The sides attached principled importance to the summit talks between the leaders of the Soviet Union and Finland.

President Koivisto highly praised the Soviet Union's efforts to secure peace around the world, including its latest peace initiatives, which Mikhail Gorbachev described in detail.

The Finnish president said the will and readiness of the Soviet Union to search for mutually acceptable solutions has brought many previously unattainable agreements closer to reality.

Ryzhkov and Koivisto held a thorough exchange of views on the present state and prospects of Soviet-Finnish cooperation in various fields. It was noted with satisfaction that the protocol on extending until the year 2000 the long-term program of developing and deepening trade, economic, industrial, scientific and technological cooperation, signed during the visit, would give Soviet organizations and Finnish firms reliable guideposts for cooperating over the long run.

Both sides expressed their firm intention to promote in every way reciprocal trade on a balanced basis. It was pointed out that large-scale bilateral economic cooperation would be assisted by extensive use of new forms of economic cooperation—joint production and specialization, projects on a buy-back basis, establishment of joint enterprises, and joint construction of projects in third countries.

This was facilitated by the Soviet Union's economic restructuring, new steps in perfecting foreign economic activity, and simplified procedures to establish and operate joint enterprises with foreign firms.

Great importance was attached to Soviet-Finnish scientific and technological cooperation, which has made a considerable contribution to accelerating scientific and technological progress and meeting the two countries' economic needs.

The chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and the president of Finland observed that the further development and deepening of Soviet-Finnish cooperation on a broad scale was the joint contribution of the Soviet Union and Finland to building a world based on trust, equitable partnership, and respect for each other's interests.

Participating in the conversation on the Soviet side were N.V. Talyzin, V.M. Kamentsev, B.I. Aristov, K.F. Katushev, A.G. Kovalev, and Ambassador V.M. Sobolev; and on the Finnish side, K. Sorsa, I. Suominen, Ambassador A. Karhilo, and other officials accompanying the president.

Talks With Gorbachev

LD062024 Moscow TASS in English 2004 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Moscow October 6 TASS—Mikhail Gorbachev and Mauno Koivisto met in the Kremlin this morning for a private conversation. Welcoming the president of a friendly country, Mikhail Gorbachev spoke highly of good relations that had formed between the two neighbouring countries, the relations the beginning to which was set in the revolutionary year 1917. They are linked with Lenin's idea and Lenin's decree on the granting of independence to Finland. There were moments in the history of those relations that aggrieved both peoples. But a profound tradition of sympathies, benevolence prevailed and the entire post-war period was such that the two peoples and countries could be proud of. It can set a good example of cooperation of countries with different social systems in the present troubled time.

It is a duty of the present Soviet and Finnish leaders to continue the cause of their predecessors and increase the assets of confidence and goodneighbourliness. If problems arise, and they can arise, for this is natural, then the only correct attitude is the stepping up of efforts in order to ensure the further upgrading and progress of Soviet-Finnish relations.

The interlocutors agreed that the policy of both countries should not contain anything that could jeopardise the interests of each other's security. Mauno Koivisto confirmed that this approach is an unshakable one. Mikhail Gorbachev emphasised that the Soviet Union will never take any step that could damage Finland, will never be disrespectful with regard to the Finnish people and state.

It was emphasised that personal relations established between the leaders of the two countries, a constant dialogue in different forms are of much importance for the present and the future.

The main questions of bilateral economic cooperation and international security with the emphasis on the situation in Northern Europe and adjoining sea expanses were discussed from these initial positions of principled importance.

In the sphere of economic relations, it was pointed out that both sides conduct the quest of such solutions as would reflect great opportunities connected with the reorganization in the USSR and the Soviet Union's new approaches to external economic ties. It was emphasised that there is determination to preserve and develop everything positive that has accumulated in the sphere of traditional trade in the previous years.

But the level and atmosphere of inter-state relations, the partners' experience and good knowledge of each other enable the USSR and Finland to blaze successfully new trails, specifically, through joint ventures and projects, naturally on the basis of strict observance of mutual advantage and with taking into account the prospects of international economic relations as a whole. This is apparently not an easy process. Questions and doubts are understandable, just as the mutual wish to learn to act in a new way and gain experience in mutual interests. The only thing that the Soviet side does not question is the preferential treatment of the Finnish partners.

Summing up the world situation Mikhail Gorbachev and Mauno Koivisto noted that there are positive changes and emphasised the cardinal importance of the meeting in Reykjavik. Mauno Koivisto positively assessed the ideas and proposals advanced by Mikhail Gorbachev, in the article in *Pravda* of September 17, and in the speech delivered in Murmansk which promote the improvement of the international situation and are close to Finland's positions in many aspects.

Dwelling on the Murmansk initiatives, Mikhail Gorbachev emphasised their organic link with the European process and problems of security on a global scale. We took into consideration the attitudes of the peoples of northern countries, but we have not expected applause from everyone, Mikhail Gorbachev said. We expect that a businesslike dialogue can be started. For this purpose we intend to hold consultations with all countries concerned for concrete working out of any constructive considerations along diplomatic channels.

The intent of the Musmansk initiatives, just as all other initiatives, is not the result of wishful thinking or haste, but the result of a realistic analysis of the situation. A characteristic feature of this situation is that the public and the political circles realise that the arms race should not go on for it can provoke a catastrophe any moment, even by chance, and also for the reason that it depletes the economy, also that of rich countries.

We are realists, Mikhail Gorbachev said, and we see that the process of disarmament will have complex stages. But there is no other way. And advance, even if slow, should be made precisely in this direction, toward real arms reduction. The Soviet Union sees its role in the world politics precisely in this way and it is confident that our persistence suits the interests of all, except for the militaristic circles.

The interlocutors noted troubled moments connected with the reaction to the prospect for the first reduction of nuclear arms on land. As if in compensation for this, the striving to step up the arms race on seas, upgrade conventional armaments and build up nuclear menace in other areas is manifested ever clearer.

Mikhail Gorbachev expressed understanding for the Finnish president's concern over the build-up of the naval might in the northern seas. He confirmed that it is quite realistic to press for a breakthrough in this area, too. Even if sea expanses cannot be cleared of submarines and other warships at once, the beginning can be made simply by preventing the buildup of armaments on seas and oceans.

Mauno Koivisto pointed to views now fashionable in the West that conventional armaments are a very expensive kind of arms if their yield per unit of spending is compared to that of nuclear arms.

Mikhail Gorbachev remarked concerning this that if one is guided by the view that war is inevitable then one can deliberate as to what costlier and what is cheaper. But if one proceeds from common sense and thinks about how to disarm and build up cooperation then it will be senseless to view things in this way.

The negative attitude to the SDI programme was confirmed. Mikhail Gorbachev pointed out that the Soviet Union has its reply if the SDI programme is implemented in violation of the ABM Treaty. And this reply will be cheap and effective.

Koivisto commended the openness of the Soviet Union's foreign policy.

Yes, we want our honest policy to be undestandable to all and, naturally, hope for an adequate response on the principles of equality, Gorbachev said. We are guided exactly by this when we take actions designed to build confidence, for instance, in the field of observing the ABM Treaty, nuclear weapon tests, and our readiness to do away with chemical weaponry.

We see that our restructuring and our open foreign policy do not suit everybody, Gorbachev noted. They do not suit someone because this wrecks the "enemy image" which they in the West created and by which they speculate invoking the "Soviet threat". They do not want by any means to reconcile themselves to the right of each and everyone to one's own independent choice, to a situation where each people in their state decide their matters in their own way rather than under pressure and at the prompting from outside.

The president said that Soviet initiatives drew good response in the West. This is explained by the fact that all nations want peace and their potentialities to develop in the situation free of fear. The disarmament process is really a long and difficult one. But it is necessary and possible. Koivisto expressed the conviction that the Soviet leadership would have enough patience not to sidetrack from the chosen path.

In the afternoon, talks were held between the delegations led by Mikhail Gorbachev and Mauno Koivisto. The Soviet side was represented at the talks by A.A. Gromyko, N.I. Ryzhkov, N.V. Talyzin, A.F. Dobrynin, V.M. Kamentsev, B.I. Gostev, A.G. Kovalev, Ambassador V.M. Sobolev.

The Finnish side was represented by Kalevi Sorsa, Christoffer Taxell, Pekka Vennamo, Ilkka Suominen, Oke Vitol, Klaus Ternudd, Paavo Kaarlehto, Matti Kahiluoto, Jaakvo Kalela, Taisto Tolvanen, and Ambassador Aarno Karhilo.

On behalf of the Soviet leadership and Soviet people Gorbachev welcomed the Finnish president and the persons accompanying him. We regard your visit as a new contribution to the development and enrichment of Soviet-Finnish cooperation, he stressed. We approach relations with Finland from broad positions, with due regard for their particular importance to our two nations. This was determined by history, the location of our countries, the accumulated trust and interest in each other.

The discussion focussed on two issues: bilateral relations and further cooperation in world politics.

The talks were conducted from the same principled stands which were laid down by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and the Finnish president in their conversation yesterday.

Gorbachev declared for vigorous involvement of all countries, big and small, belonging and not belonging to military alliances, in solving all problems of the CSCE process and particularly welcomed the energetic role of Finland with its great international prestige. The USSR considers it unacceptable when big states decide the destiny of other nations and countries for themselves and without them.

During the talks the importance was stressed on more than one occasion of the approaching anniversaries of the October Revolution and the Republic of Finland, the 40 years of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance to both countries, Koivisto reaffirmed the invitation to Gorbachev to visit Finland. Gorbachev expressed a sincere wish to pay this visit to the friendly country.

On behalf of the Soviet leadership, Gorbachev invited Mauno Koivisto to attend the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution in Moscow. The invitation was accepted by the president.

The conversation and talks were distinguished by the traditional amiable nature, openness and deep mutual understanding.

Attends Document Signing

LD062003 Moscow TASS in English 1947 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Moscow October 6 TASS—Soviet-Finnish documents were signed in the Grand Kremlin Palace today.

Present at the signing ceremony from the Soviet side were:

Mikhail Gorbachev, Andrey Gromyko, Nikolay Ryzhkov, Nikolay Talyzin, Anatoliy Dobrynin and other officials.

From the Finnish side—Mauno Koivisto, state and political figures accompanying him.

The following documents were signed: The protocol on extending till the year 2000 the long-term programme of developing and deepening trade, economic, industrial, scientific and technological cooperation between the

USSR and Finland, the agreement between the Government of the USSR and the Government of the Republic of Finland on avoiding double taxation of incomes, the programme of cooperation in the field of culture, science and education for 1988-1993.

Further on Signing Ceremony

LD062150 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 6 Oct 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today the signing of Soviet-Finnish documents took place in the Great Kremlin Palace.

Comrade Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Sorsa, Finnish deputy premier and foreign minister, signed a protocol on extending until the year 2000 the validity of the long-term program for developing and deepening cooperation between the USSR and the Finnish Republic in trade, economic, industrial, and scientific and technical areas.

An agreement between the Governments of the USSR and the Finnish Republic on eliminating double taxation of income was signed by Comrade Gostev, USSR finance minister, and Suominen, Finnish minister of trade and industry. Comrade Kovalev, the USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs, and Finnish Education Minister Taxell countersigned a program for cooperation in the area of culture, science, and education for the period 1988-93.

The signing ceremony was attended by Comrades Gorbachev, Gromyko, Ryzhkov, Talyzin, Dobrynin, and other officials on the Soviet side. Mauno Koivisto, accompanied by his entourage of statesmen and politicians, attended on the Finnish side.

Cooperation Accords Detailed

LD061446 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 1300 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] The importance of cooperating in production is being stressed in Finnish-Soviet trade over the next decade. During President Mauno Koivisto's state visit, a program of cooperation extending to the year 2000, emphasizing the introduction of new arrangements for payment and funding, was signed in Moscow this afternoon.

The primary goal is to extend exchange transactions.

For the first time in 10 years, the economic cooperation program does not estimate the level at which trade should aim in the long term. The estimate has been omitted because of the current imbalance in trade and the unstable prices of oil and other raw materials. It is intended that Finland and the Soviet Union will jointly produce nuclear icebreakers and freighters, forestry machinery, and special vehicles. Compensation projects are being mentioned in connection with exploiting mineral resources on the Kola Peninsula. Finnish construction work would be paid for by finished products from the Kola project, either for Finland or Finnish projects in third countries.

One aim of the program is to increase all kinds of imports from the Soviet Union.

Soviet Leaders Host Dinner

LD061811 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1756 GMT 6 Oct

[Text] Moscow, 6 Oct (TASS)—A dinner in honor of President Mauno Koivisto of the Republic of Finland was given in the Grand Kremlin Palace today on behalf of the Soviet leadership.

Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Mauno Koivisto exchanged speeches heard with great attention and greeted with applause.

The dinner passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Finnish officials accompanying the president on his trip were also present.

The Soviet side was represented at the dinner by: M.S. Gorbachev and his spouse; A.A. Gromyko, N.I. Ryzhkov, Y.K. Ligachev, A.N. Yakovlev, N.V. Talyzin, D.T Yazov, A.F. Dobrynin, deputy chairmen of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and of the USSR Council of Ministers, USSR ministers, chairmen of USSR state committees, and other officials.

Gorbachev Delivers Speech

PM071105 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Oct 87 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Speech by M.S. Gorbachev" under the general heading "Strengthening Mutual Understanding and Cooperation"]

[Text] Esteemed Mr President,

Esteemed Mrs Koivisto,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Comrades:

Several days ago I was very near your country, in the Murmansk area. True, I did not have the opportunity to set foot on Finnish soil, but I hope to soon: I have your invitation, and I will gladly avail myself of it.

But now, in this solemn atmosphere, I would like to convey to you in the simplest and most meaningful words the feelings that we Soviet people have for Finland, our good neighbor, words stemming both from the heart and history, which are addressed to the present and future.

In terms of the scale of the times we are living in, we are just one civilization on a small planet in the expanses of the boundless universe, although it may sound paradoxical. But we are related by the common need to jointly ensure the survival of mankind, avert an economic and ecological catastrophe, and solve global problems.

It is an indisputable fact that the countries of northern Europe have played a considerable role in the search of solutions to these tasks. The voice of reason sounded from there even in the worst years of the cold war. Apparently this reflects the political traditions and spiritual values handed down from generation to generation, and long experience, from which the northerners have drawn correct lessons.

Is it not significant that three Nordic capitals, Helsinki, Stockholm, and Reykjavik, have already written their names in the peaceful annals of the postwar period? The capital of Finland is the cradle of the CSCE process. The capital of Sweden has become the place where Europeans, Americans, and Canadians have come close to military-political detente in Europe and acquired the first experience of implementing confidence-building measures.

How can I not mention here the capital of Iceland, where a historic turn took place opening up the horizon of peace without a nuclear threat? One can speak about Reykjavik as a sort of forerunner of real nuclear disarmament, a source of faith in its possibility and feasibility.

Contrary to skeptics, panic-mongers, and opponents of disarmament, the international climate has become a bit warmer after Reykjavik. One would like to hope that after the signing of the Soviet-American agreement on eliminating medium- and shorter-range missiles, it will change even more noticeably.

We hope that in the wake of the almost 2,000 nuclear warheads for medium-range and shorter-range missiles we will be able to begin reducing the strategic armed forces of the USSR and the United States by 50% under strict observance of the ABM Treaty.

I also hope that at the same time we will be able to reach agreement with the United States on the first steps to limit nuclear weapons tests and to aim at their total prohibition.

The load on the Vienna meeting increases in these conditions. We expect it to end with the reaching of accords on all three so-called Helsinki baskets. All participants evidently have things to fill them with.

It is time to agree on the mandate for the second stage of the conference started in Stockholm, the goal being talks on reducing troops and armaments in Europe, from the Atlantic to the Urals.

Given desire, the "balances" and "imbalances" could be sorted out quickly. We could determine who has more of what and start evening out levels within an agreed-upon timeframe.

The whole of Europe is interested in reducing troops and arms. For this reason there should be no, so to speak, Europeans-supernumeraries, including from among neutral and nonaligned countries. We value the fact that Finland strives to play an active role in questions of disarmament within the framework of the CSCE process.

The way we are now posing the question of "reasonable sufficiency" and "non-offensive defense" is one indication of the scope of reduction in armed forces and conventional armaments the Soviet Union and our allies would like to reach.

I must remark, however, that in connection with the forthcoming agreement on medium-range and shorter-range missiles, some quarters in the United States and other NATO countries believe it necessary to take steps that cannot but alarm the peoples. The essence of these steps is to "compensate" for the disappearence of a class of nuclear missiles so that nothing would change in the level of military confrontation.

Moreover, the waters and airspace of the North Atlantic and the adjoining seas are being chosen as a sphere of such "compensation."

Mr President, you have drawn attention to the danger of such a change in the "configuration of the arms race" in connection with the treaty on medium- and shorter-range missiles. In that case, a new threat would confront not only us and the entire north of the continent but the whole of Europe.

As I said in Murmansk, we want the "northern roof" of our common European home to be always reliable and strong; we want people in every room in this house to live confident in the knowledge that nobody will violate the rules of good-neighborliness.

In the field of economic and scientific-technical cooperation, we support the proposals to convene corresponding forums and will take an active part in them. The Finnish proposal for a forum on questions of ecology appeals to us.

In Murmansk, I keenly felt and patently saw the need to urgently work out a comprehensive plan to protect the natural environment of the North. The Nordic countries could take an active part in such a common program.

I am convinced a broad dialogue on all humanitarian issues is in the interests of Europeans. I would like to remind you that we proposed to hold a representative conference in Moscow on all humanitarian matters. Nothing of the sort has ever existed in the procedures of the CSCE process.

We invite all the CSCE participants to work in Moscow, and naturally we address Finland with special friendliness. It is easier for Finns to form a judgement about the new nature of our policy and the development of democratization and glasnost taking place here. After all, every year more than 300,000 people from your country, almost 1 Finn in 10, come here as tourists. They see everything with their own eyes.

We are serious about the Moscow humanitarian conference, and I confirm this. We want it to be a remarkable event in European and world politics.

In the entire complex of our international activities, we attach much importance to our relations with Finland and its leaders. Emotions aside, experience plays a big role in this approach. On the basis of the treaty of 1948, we have succeeded in building a viable model of good-neighborliness in which one can see, in miniature, a secure and non-violent world on the international scale.

Soon both countries and both peoples will celebrate interconnected anniversaries of historic importance: the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution and the 70th anniversary of the Finnish Republic.

For us, Finland is associated for all time with the biography of Vladimir Lenin. He repeatedly went to your country in the difficult pre-revolutionary years. His attitude toward Finns was one of invariable respect. He relied on their faithfulness to their word. He valued the features of their national character. We will always be grateful to Finnish democrats, who helped protect our leader both from the tsarist police and the agents of the provisional government.

Firm and good traditions have appeared in our relations in the 40 years since the war. We have become trailblazers in many matters that influenced the formation of the entire mechanism of East-West relations.

One such matter is the practice of long-term trade relations, which have become long-term economic cooperation programs. They now make it possible to link our plans more solidly with Finland's needs and potential. This is important for both sides. For you, this helps create a reserve of strength against fluctuations on the world market. For us, this is a way of encouraging industry, which supplies the Finnish market, to improve quality and raise its products to world standards.

The extensive contacts between our peoples in the humanitarian field are another good tradition. Its roots are deep in the past. The Finnish language, one must admit, is not such an easy one. In any case, it seems so to us Russians.

But thanks to our poets, the *Kalevala Epos* became known to our people only 5 years after its publication in Finnish. I know many of our books are translated in your country. Soviet people are deeply grateful to the many Finns who devote their talent and knowledge to cultivating and expanding the interaction of our cultures in all areas: literature, architecture, music, poetry, and folk art.

Despite the success in the field of spiritual contacts , I believe, Mr President, that not everything has yet been done here by far. Modern technology is capable of "delivering" the best works of the culture of our peoples literally to every home, to every family. Finnish television could give more extensive coverage to the life of its neighbor. On Soviet television, too, one would like to see more programs about Finland.

So let us think together about ensuring a growth of personal friendships between the people of Finland and the Soviet Union. After all, this is the most reliable basis of normal relations between countries.

We highly value the active dialogue with you, Mr President, and with other politicians from your country.

Contacts with a statesman like Mauno Koivisto are always enriching and give food for serious thought. I am not saying this as a compliment. I do not think you like them much. I am simply stating a fact of international political significance, and the present talks have fully confirmed this.

Today, and I think you will agree with me, we have worked fruitfully. We had an open and direct dialogue. It passed in a good, friendly atmosphere. We discussed in detail the central problems of the international situation, got down to the details of various areas of cooperation, and signed three new agreements.

I think both sides can be satisfied: A new milestone has been set in perfecting good-neighborliness with due account for the new conditions of the present stage of each state's development.

To the flourishing of the friendly people of Suomi, to the further strengthening of Soviet-Finnish mutual understanding and cooperation.

Further successes to you, Mr President, in your activity for the good of the Finnish people, for the benefit of cooperation between the USSR and Finland, for the good of Europe and international security. Good health and happiness to you and Mrs Koivisto, and to all our guests from friendly Finland.

Koivisto Speaks at Dinner

LD061843 Moscow TASS in English 1815 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Moscow October 6 TASS—"It will not be an overstatement to say that the mutual understanding reached by the Soviet Union and the United States in the area of disarmament on the elimination of land-based intermediate- and shorter-range nuclear missiles is a historic one", said President of the Republic of Finland Mauno Koivisto. He delivered a speech at the dinner given in his honour in the Kremlin today.

Finland welcomes with satisfaction this agreement in principle, the Finnish leader said.

It is with particular attention that Finland follows the developments in security in its environment, that is the northern region. The stability in that region has become a kind of concept, and we are striving to ensure that stability, the president said. He noted that a scopeful approach to the security of northern districts and the areas of cooperation of which Mikhail Gorbachev spoke in Murmansk last week merit every attention. "We appreciate the support expressed in your speech for our proposal to create a nuclear-free zone in the north of Europe and for confidence-building measures in the northern maritime districts and view it is the manifestation of a constructive stand with regard to maintaining security and stability in northern districts", Mauno Koivisto said.

The president noted that the process started by the European conference is a sphere of activity in which Finland is tirelessly striving to promote the creation of a better future in Europe. Progress in military matters was also achieved in the framework of the European conference. The implementation of the document of the Stockholm conference has been started and the experience of the first year is encouraging. "We expect from the Vienna meeting of the countries participating in the European conference new steps forward on this and other sections of the Helsinki Final Act", Mauno Koivisto said. "Together with other neutral countries Finland will continue its activity toward finding mutually acceptable solutions. We noted with satisfaction that this activity is viewed as necessary by all the parties."

Pointing out that the first long-term programme for the development and deepening of commercial, economic, industrial, scientific and technological cooperation between Finland and the USSR was signed in 1977, the president noted that "the second extension of the operation up to the year 2000 of that document of the greatest importance for our cooperation reflects the mutual striving of the sides to promote the development of our economic ties on a long-term and most stable basis. There are many new things in the protocol. Specifically, one could mention the intention to promote joint ventures in the Soviet Union and to develop the clearing system of settling accounts, that proved effective, and measures with the use of currency supplementing it."

The 70th anniversary of Finland's independence and of the Great October Socialist Revolution falls due this year, Mauno Koivisto said. These events, close in time, are undoubtedly related in essence.

"Our relations developed over a lengthy period of time: the decree recognizing Finland's state independence signed by V.I. Lenin, the 1948 Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance, the tireless work in the recent decades to the benefit of the development of these relations and remarkable results achieved are a guarantee of the further development of our relations", the Finnish leader said.

Koivisto Cited on Ties

LD071338 Moscow TASS in English 1324 GMT 7 Oct 87

[Text] October 7 TASS—From Finland's viewpoint, the latest Soviet peace initiatives advanced in Murmansk are important. They express support for Finland's earlier advanced ideas on security in northern Europe, President Mauno Koivisto of Finland has observed in an interview to Finnish television.

On the international situation, he stressed the importance of neutral and non-aligned countries' participation in handling disarmament and other topical problems.

Confidence-building measures, he said, would create a more favourable international atmosphere. "The question is not how far the opposing forces are from one another, but how close they are. This would help reduce the threat of war."

In this connection Koivisto stressed the role of weapon-free corridors and the importance of establishing nuclear-free zones in various parts of the world.

In the field of northern countries' participation in developing oil deposits and tapping mineral resources and in environmental protection, Finland had a number of joint projects. The head of state emphasized that his country could also cooperate in this field with the Soviet Union.

On Soviet-Finnish economic cooperation, Koivisto stressed the two countries' aspiration to conduct balanced trade and the Soviet Union's striving to decrease the share of raw materials in its export.

In connection with the restructuring drive currently under way in the Soviet Union, the Finnish president stressed that Finnish firms should adopt a new approach to trade and economic cooperation with the USSR, saying that Finland held leading positions in trading with the Soviet Union.

Koivisto Leaves Kremlin

LD070718 Moscow TASS in English 0710 GMT 7 Oct 87

[Text] Moscow October 7 TASS—President Mauno Koivisto of the Republic of Finland was officially seen off in the Kremlin today. Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and his wife wished the head of the friendly country and his wife pleasant journey.

Nauno Koivisto is leaving for Alma-Ata. He has been staying in the Soviet Union since Monday on an official visit at the invitation of the Soviet leadership.

Departs for Alma-Ata

LD070724 Moscow TASS in English 0712 GMT 7 Oct 87

[Text] Moscow October 7 TASS—Mauno Koivisto, president of the Republic of Finland, left Moscow for Alma-Ata today.

At the airport, Mauno Koivisto and his wife were seen off by Andrey Gromyko, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, with wife, Nikolay Talyzin, an alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee, and other officials.

Mauno Koivisto has been in Moscow since Monday on an official visit at the invitation of the Soviet leadership.

USSR Delegation in Brussels for EEC Talks

LD061320 Moscow TASS in English 1254 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Brussels October 6 TASS—A delegation from the USSR parliamentary group and the Soviet European Security and Cooperation Committee, led by Lev Tolkunov, chairman of the Soviet of the Union and chairman of the European Security and Cooperation Committee, arrived in the Belgian capital today at the invitation of the group of socialists in the European Parliament.

At Brussels International Airport, the Soviet representatives were welcomed by the leaders of the socialist group, headed by its chairman Rudy Arndt. He cordially greeted the Soviet delegation, stressing all political factions in the European Parliament were looking forward to the possibility of meeting with the Soviet parliamentarians.

The program of the Soviet delegation's visit to Brussels, the seat of the secretariats of the European Parliament's political groups and commissions, envisages working meetings and talks with the leadership of the EEC parliamentary body, its specialized institutions, leaders of political factions, and contacts with the leadership of the commission of the European communities.

Canadian Labor Delegation Visits Moscow

LD071228 Moscow TASS in English 1119 GMT 7 Oct 87

[Text] Moscow October 7 TASS—A delegation from the Canadian Labour Congress, led by its president Shirley Carr, is in Moscow at the invitation of the All-Union Central Trade Union Council [AUCTUC].

The CLC delegation met today with a Soviet trade union delegation headed by AUCTUC Chairman Stepan Shalayev.

During the talks in the Palace of Labour, the sides exchanged information on main directions in the activity of labour unions in the USSR and Canada.

They also discussed urgent problems of the present times and of the international trade union movement, issues of developing bilateral labour ties and cooperation in the interests of deepening mutual understanding and good-neighbourly relations between the peoples of the USSR and Canada.

Embassy in France Issues Statement on Film

LD062034 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2005 GMT 6 Oct

["Statement by the USSR Embassy in France"—TASS headline]

[Text] Paris, 6 Oct (TASS)—The USSR Embassy in France published a statement today in connection with attempts by the national television company "Antenne-2" to cast doubt on the sincerity of the USSR's efforts to ban chemical weapons.

In any case, the statement says, this is precisely how one might consider the showing by "Antenne-2" of the film "Epsilon," in which certain villains with Russian sounding names and speaking Russian use chemical weapons against a defenseless population.

The question arises, who needs to sow enmity and mistrust with regard to the Soviet Union?

We do not doubt, the statement notes, the aspirations of the French people to reduce military danger on the planet and to disarmament. This is also confirmed by French public opinion polls.

For this reason the showing of the film "Epsilon," the statement stresses, cannot be assessed as anything other than an unfriendly act toward the Soviet Union, which runs counter to the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act of the development of feelings of friendship and trust among European peoples.

Suit Against Soviet Paper 'Dismissed'

LD061535 Moscow TASS in English 1515 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Paris October 6 TASS—A trial started against the *New Times* magazine by American citizen Lyndon Larouche and the "European Working Party" has ended here.

Larouche, an ideologist and an actual leader of the European Working Party, an international anticommunist organization operating in the USA and many West European countries, filed a suit against the Soviet weekly which unmasked the European Working Party and the political image of Larouche himself. *New Times* based its conclusions on numerous facts which exposed the ringleader of the "European Working Party" as a racist and neofascist.

Larouche and his entourage tried to resort to a suit to demand a considerable compensation for "moral damage," public apologies for "slander," and the seizure of the magazine copies with materials about the European Working Party.

Hearings on this case started in Paris on July 1. The weekly's representative went twice to Paris to attend the court's sessions. French lawyer Joe Nordmann was entrusted with defense of the magazine's interests. Recently the Paris Court of Superior Jurisdiction passed a sentence. Here are its contents:

Larouche's suit is dismissed. Larouche is found wrong on all points of the file against *New Times*. He is liable for damages to the magazine's editorial board.

Larouche is also liable for all court costs.

The defeat of the ringleader of the neofascist party became possible because of the active and offensive position taken not only by the *New Times* weekly (it prepared dozens of documents for the Paris court and the lawyer, and published new materials on its pages) but by other Soviet mass media as well.

Murakhovskiy Receives French Delegation

LD062025 Moscow TASS in English 2010 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Moscow October 6 TASS—Vsevolod Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Agri-Industrial Committee of the USSR, today received a delegation from the National Council of French Employers (Patronat), led by its President Francois Perigot.

They discussed various aspects of Soviet-French economic, scientific and technological cooperation, paying special attention to developing bilateral relations in the agri-industrial complex.

The delegation members were told about the course of restructuring in the agrarian sector of the national economy and the implementation of tasks put forward by the 27th CPSU Congress.

The French ambassador to the USSR, Yves Pogniez, took part in the conversation.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

LD070147 Moscow TASS in English 1646 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Moscow October 6 TASS—Organizations of the business communities of the Soviet Union and France pledged to promote cooperation in trade, economic, industrial, and technological fields. An agreement to this effect was signed in Moscow today by the U.S.S.R. Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the National Council of French Businessmen (Conseil National du Patronat Francais). Under the terms of the agreement the sides will exchange economic information and delegations of businessmen and assist each other in holding exhibitions in the two countries. Special attention is to be devoted to new forms of cooperation between organizations, industrial enterprises and firms of the Soviet Union and France. The document signed today marks an important stage in the development of cooperation between the Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the National Council of French Businessmen, said Francois Perigot, the council's president. Yevgeniy Pitovranov, president of the Presidium of the U.S.S.R. Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that the visit of the council's delegation to the Soviet Union was a success. He added that the sides had agreed in principle on a visit of a delegation of Soviet exporters to France to be organized with the assistance of the National Council of French Businessmen.

Soviet Military 'Inspectors' in Turkey

LD070913 Moscow TASS in English 0729 GMT 7 Oct 87

[Text] Istanbul October 7 TASS—A group of Soviet military inspectors stayed in Turkey on October 5-7. Their trip was undertaken on the basis of relevant provisions of the document of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence-Building Measures, Security and Disarmament in Europe.

Special Envoy Comments on Cyprus Issue

LD071058 Moscow TASS in English 1031 GMT 7 Oct 87

[Text] Nicosia October 7 TASS—The main conclusion drawn by the press in Cyprus following a news conference by the visiting special representative of the Soviet leadership, Ambassador at Large Igor Andropov is that the USSR backs the solution of the Cyprus problem.

Replying to questions put by journalists, Andropov pointed out that the Soviet Union was opposed to any interference in Cyprus' internal affairs and expressed concern over the absence of progress in handling the island's problem, which posed a threat to the existence of the Republic of Cyprus as a united, independent and sovereign nation.

The way of solving the Cyprus question, Andropov said, was set out in the Soviet proposals of January 22, 1986. As to internal aspects of the problem and structural issues of the state, they should be handled by the Cypriots themselves by peaceful means on the basis of U.N. resolutions.

The special envoy of the Soviet leadership had a meeting with Ezekias Papaioannou, general secretary of the Progressive Party of the Working People of Cyprus (AKEL).

'Lessons' Drawn From Barents Air Miss

PM061332 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Oct 87 p 9

[D. Suvorov report under the rubric "We Report the Details:" "Incident Over the Barents Sea"]

[Text] Sunday is the Norwegians' day off: The newspapers are not published, and there are fewer radio and television news programs.

But on 13 September, many journalists had to break off their leisure and return to the editorial desks or take up positions at the entrance to the Foreign Ministry, where the leader of that department had an urgent meeting with the Soviet ambassador.

A few hours before, an incident took place between a Norwegian Orion reconnaissance aircraft and a Soviet interceptor in international airspace over the Barents Sea, in the region to the east of the Murmansk meridian, a few dozen kilometers from the shoreline of the Kola Peninsula. This was the reason for the diplomats' meeting. Disaster was averted. The planes, following parallel courses in conditions of good visibility, only touched each other and, suffering insignificant damage, returned to their airfields. Questions arose: How, why, whose fault, and was there any ill intent? The following day, the newspapers printed photographs of the planes, interviews with the Norwegian pilot, and numerous commentaries by political and military figures, while the television news showed the Orion's broken propellor and the hole in its wing.

The press adopted a sensible approach to this incident, and based on the information at its disposal, deemed it an accident. The authorities set up a commission, whose conclusions will not be ready for a few weeks.

A corresponding commission was set up in the Soviet Union, too. On the 5th day after the incident, the Soviet Government's answer was conveyed to the Norwegian authorities. This answer was extremely clear: "...The Soviet side acknowledges the fact of unintentional, incorrect actions by the Soviet fighter and expresses regret on this account." The conduct of the Norwegian Orion was not above reproach as well; after our pilot, in violation of the rules, had approached it to within a distance insufficient to ensure flight safety, the crew of the Orion carried out a dangerous maneuver toward the Soviet fighter, lowered the undercarriage, and throttled back.

How did Norway assess the Soviet side's answer? Acting Foreign Minister K. Mosbakk called it "a good example of how two neighbors can immediately and effectively resolve serious problems."

Today this question can be considered closed; however, lessons should be learned from every incident. Norwegian Defense Minister J.J. Holst, commenting on the answer received from Moscow, came back to the idea of the need for elaborating some kind of rules of conduct to avoid similar incidents in the future. The idea of confidence-building measures, a specific framework for military activity and a system for mutual notification, is popular in the northern countries in relation to the northern sea regions. The Soviet Union has also come out in support of this idea. It was discussed at the recently completed talks in Moscow between Finnish President M. Koivisto and Soviet leaders.

At the time of the Orion's flight in the east, in waters adjacent to northern Norway, the latest major NATO exercises were in progress. Some 150 ships were concentrated here, headed by the American aircraft carrier *Forrestal*. They were supported from the air by 250 combat planes. Against this "background," even the most innocuous, accidental occurrence reminds us confidence-building measures are an urgent need. They are necessary both at sea and on the continent itself.

Latin America & Caribbean

Further on Shevardnadze Latin America Visit

Comparison of Uruguay Arrival

Moscow *Pravda* in Russian on 6 October carries in its second edition on page 5 a report on the statement made at the airport by Foreign Minister E. Shevardnadze on his arrival in Uruguay on 5 October. The *Pravda* report, entitled "Trip Continues," has been compared with the TASS International Service Russian version published in the 6 October Soviet Union *Daily Report*, page 31, revealing the following variations:

Column two, paragraph one, line one reads in *Pravda*: ...Buenos Aires, 5 Oct—E. A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, left Buenos Aires today on the completion of his official visit to Argentina. He was seen off at the capital's airport by Argentine Foreign Minister D. Caputo and other officials. USSR Ambassador to Argentina O.K. Kaasov was there to see him off.

On the same day E.A. Shevardnadze arrived in Montevideo for an official visit at the invitation of the Uruguayan Government. He was greeted at the airport by Uruguayan Foreign Minister E. Iglesias and other officials. USSR Ambassador to Uruguay I.K. Laptev was there to greet him.

E.A. Shevardnadze made the following statement on arrival: ... (supplying alternate dateline and opening)

Page 32, column one, second paragraph, last line in *Pravda* reads: ...protecting our common political and spiritual assets. (substituting "assets" for "aspirations")

Page 32, column one, sixth paragraph, line one in *Pravda* reads: Apart from the big business and political workload, our first visit to your country will also have another... (rewording and supplying "first")

First Day of Uruguay Visit

LD062036 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 6 Oct 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; video report by Television Correspondent I. Fesunenko]

[Text] USSR Foreign Minister Comrade Shevardnadze, is in Uruguay on an official visit. Here is a report from our correspondent:

[I. Fesunenko] Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay are the three stages of the visit by USSR Foreign Minister Comrade Shevardnadze, to the countries of South America. The IL-62 aircraft has just gained height, rising above Ezeiza International Airport in Buenos Aires, and in 20-30 minutes it will land in Montevideo. Thus, the visit by the Soviet minister, the first in history by a Soviet minister to South American countries, is being concluded.

And even in the saloon of the aircraft, as it was about to land, we felt as though spring had already arrived on the sunlit Uruguayan land on the shores of the Southern Atlantic. This feeling of optimism and good hope was strengthened when the meeting began with this small but surprisingly hospitable country, and when the officials, led by Enrique Iglesias, foreign minister of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, who welcomed Comrade Shevardnadze and his wife, somehow straightaway managed to break down the traditional restraint of diplomatic protocol.

This feeling was maintained in the meeting with journalists at the capital's Carrasco Airport where both ministers made informal statements imbued with sincere feelings of mutual respect.

So it was, too, at the first official meeting with Foreign Minister Iglesias, in the Santos Palace, where Soviet-Uruguayan talks began within an hour of arrival. They are continuing even now when the Moscow edition of the "Vremya" program is on the air.

Comrade Shevardnadze's visit to the Libertad Palace where he met Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti, to whom a personal message from Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorabchev was handed, was marked by similar moods of friendliness and mutual understanding. A conversation took place, during which, in the very same atmosphere of complete sincerity and mutual trust, problems of — as official communiques call it — bilateral relations and some of the most important aspects of the present-day international situation were discussed.

The meeting with President Sanguinetti became the main event during the first day of the USSR foreign minister's stay in Uruguay. But perhaps the most emotional highspot of it was the ceremony of laying wreaths at the momument to Jose Artigas, Uruguay's national hero. It so happened that this event, which is traditional for such a high level visit, went beyond the bounds of protocol and somehow unexpectedly turned into an improvised, but very lively and cordial meeting between Eduard Amrosiyevich Shevardnadze and the inhabitants of Montevideo, who had come here to welcome the guest from Moscow and to express feelings of respect and love for our Soviet land.

Holds Talks With Iglesias

LD070844 Moscow TASS in English 0739 GMT 7 Oct 87

[Text] Montevideo October 7 TASS—Although the international situation remains complicated, it holds a promise of positive change, it was noted at the talks here on Tuesday between Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR, and Enrique Iglesias, foreign minister of Uruguay.

It was pointed out that this change was graphically manifested at the 42nd session of the U.N. General Assembly the course of which, especially the general political debate, showed that a new climate was emerging in relations between states, with confrontation giving way to constructive dialogue on the most acute problems of the present times.

The ministers expressed the view that establishing a comprehensive system of international security on the basis of principles and provisions of the U.N. Charter met the needs of the international community and the requirements of the times.

It was emphasized that the United Nations was designed to play a special role in that process. The U.N. was a natural place for a joint search for a balance of legitimate interests of all nations.

The ministers observed that problems of disarmament could be resolved if the parties concerned would handle them in a new way, being guided by political thinking that reflected realities of the nuclear and space age.

Such an approach was made possible by the Soviet-American agreement on medium- and shorter-range missiles. It was important to strive for specific agreements directed at ending the arms arms [as received] and lowering the levels of military confrontation.

The sides noted close relationship between disarmament and development and stressed the need for switching resources from military purposes to needs of development.

Having voiced serious concern over the conflicts and crisis situations in various parts of the world, the ministers came out in favour of their earliest settlement by peaceful means.

The present state and prospects of developing bilateral relations in the economic, scientific, technological and cultural spheres were assessed from constructive positions.

Local Legislators on Visit

PM061151 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Oct 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Event of Great Importance"]

[Text] Montevideo, 5 Oct—The official visit to Uruguay by E.A. Shevardnadze, USSR minister of foreign affairs and member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, is one of the central events in the country's political life this year, Renaldo Gargano, senator in the Uruguayan parliament, stated in an interview with a TASS correspondent. In the senator's opinion, the visit is of particularly important significance in the present situation whereby, thanks to the accord in principle recently reached between the USSR and the United States on concluding an agreement on the elimination of medium-range and operational-tactical missiles, a new factor of optimism and hope has emerged in international relations.

E.A. Shevardnadze's visit is an event of great importance for the Uruguayans, Liber Seregni, president of the Broad Front, stated here. He stressed the tremendous significance of the Soviet peace initiatives designed to guarantee peace and international security. The Broad Front—the association of Uruguay's progressive forces—fervently supports these initiatives and the process of restructuring under way in the Soviet Union. International security is especially important for developing countries, since it is one of the prerequisites for achieving the economic development so necessary for them.

The people and Government of Uruguay will receive the Soviet minister as the representative of a great power that has done a great deal to further the struggle to stop the senseless arms race, Eduardo Haurena [name as published], deputy in the Uruguayan parliament, stated. The Uruguayan parliamentarian gave a high assessment of the Soviet peace initiatives, pointing out that the huge sums now spent in the world on accumulating arms ought to be used to eliminate hunger, disease, and illiteracy among millions of people on the planet.

Political & Social

Human Rights Organization Set Up in Moscow

LD061310 Hamburg DPA in German 1143 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Excerpts] Moscow (DPA)—Several Soviet civil rights campaigners in Moscow on Tuesday established a charter of the International Society for Human Rights (IGFM) for the USSR. The organization, which has applied for official permission to the Soviet Foreign Ministry, intends to register and publish regularly violations of human rights within and outside the USSR. [passage omitted] The organization has about 20 civil rights campaigners. Among the four Moscow members are three former political prisoners who were pardoned early this year. [passage omitted]

The current number of known political prisoners in the USSR is 680, according to the group. [passage omitted]

In view of the latest development, the founders of the organization fear that the Soviet authorities would probably ban the group shortly. Two editors of the *Glasnost* magazine, founded by civil rights campaigners in July, were temporarily detained last week. Early last week the Soviet party leader Mikhail Gorbachev said that a fight would be waged against those who blackened the name of the Soviet Union. The Kremlin leader had denied the existence of political prisoners in the USSR.

Ida Nudel Allowed To Leave Country

AU021844 Paris AFP in English 1825 GMT 2 Sep 87

[Text] Moscow, Oct 2 (AFP)—Soviet refuznik Ida Nudel, 57, whose 16-year battle for permission to leave the Soviet Union included four years of exile in Siberia, has received an exit visa for Israel, Judith Ratner, a close friend of the economist said here on Friday.

Ms. Ratner confirmed earlier reports by a spokesman for the U.S. Conference on Soviet Jewry, a Jewish activitist group, and the Israeli Committee of Support for Soviet Jews.

According to Ms. Ratner, the emigration office (OVIR) at Kishinev, capital of the Soviet republic of Moldavia, phoned Ms. Nudel's home there on Friday to tell her that an exit visa had been granted.

Ms. Nudel has been staying in Moscow since Wednesday and was likely to return to Moldavia on Sunday, Ms. Ratner said.

A U.S. Conference on Soviet Jewry spokesman said Ida Nudel had telephoned conference officials in New York to say that Soviet authorities had granted her an exit permit.

She had first applied for a visa 16 years ago.

Ms. Nudel who has been described as the "Guardian Angel of the Refuzniks," was arrested in 1978 for hanging a sign from her Moscow apartment, pleading, "KGB let me go to Israel."

She was sentenced to four years in internal exile in the town of Krivosheino, Siberia, and put under house arrest in Moldavia after authorities refused to grant her a residence permit for Moscow.

Jerry Strober, U.S. Conference on Soviet Jewry spokesman, said Ms. Nudel planned to settle in Israel with her sister, Elana Friedman. The rest of her family also lives in Israel.

Conference chairman Morris Abram said: "We heartily welcome the news of Ida Nudel's permission on the eve of our most sacred day, Yom Kippur.

"The announcement today can only be interpreted as a very positive sign for the repatriation to Israel of thousands of other Soviet Jews."

The conference has claimed that 380,000 Soviets have sought permission to leave the country and that 11,000 have had their applications rejected at least once.

Raisa Gorbacheva Murmansk Activities Reported

PM061503 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Oct 87 Morning Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Getting to Know Murmansk Oblast"]

[Text] Women closely follow the solution of social problems. This was the subject of a discussion during R.M. Gorbacheva's meeting with women's council activists in the city of Monchegorsk, where the very large "Severonikel" Combine is located. Despite its industrial successes, the city is still short of kindergartens, creches, and sports facilities, and consumer services are poor.

The problem of employment for women married to fishermen is particularly serious in Murmansk. There are also a considerable number of unresolved problems in work with children. R.M. Gorbacheva visited a preschool children's home and had a detailed conversation with the people working there. The children were given a selection of children's books.

At the oblast women's council R.M. Gorbacheva was told about the role played by the women of Murmansk in the Soviet Culture Foundation and in the struggle for peace, disarmament, and stronger international ties with the inhabitants of neighboring Scandinavian countries.

There was a discussion about preserving and developing original northern culture at the Museum of Maritime Life in the ancient city of Kola above the Arctic Circle.

In Severomorsk R.M. Gorbacheva looked around the "K-21" submarine which is now a museum. The museum recounts the heroic history and everyday life of the Red Banner Northern Submarine Fleet.

Solovyev Receives Foreign Diplomats

LD300935 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2040 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Leningrad 29 September (TASS)—On the eve of the 70th anniversary of Great October, the heads of embassies of foreign countries accredited to our country have been on a trip—organized by the USSR Foreign Ministry—to get to know the city of the Neva.

The visitors were received by Yuriy Solovyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Leningrad Oblast party committee. He spoke about the work of the working people of the town and the oblast to implement the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the party's main-line policy of accelerating socioeconomic development, and also about progress in restructuring. It was stressed that, in carrying out the tasks of intensifying production and speeding up scientific and technological progress, the Leningraders are strengthening cooperation with many foreign partners and maintaining friendly ties with upwards of 20 twin towns in various states.

In Smolnyy the diplomats visited the V.I. Lenin memorial museum. They laid flowers at the monument to the leader by the historic building. At the Piskarevo memorial cemetery the heads of the embassies honored the memory of the townspeople and soldiers who fell during the years of the great fatherland war, and laid a wreath at the motherland monument. The guests visited the "Elektrosila" association and the Hermitage.

Ecological, Construction Decisions Released

PM010841 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Sep 87 Morning Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Official Section"]

[Text] Long-term Ecological Program [subhead]

The CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers have adopted a resolution on the procedure for elaborating a draft Long-Term USSR State Program for Environmental Protection and the Rational Utilization of Natural Resources. The resolution notes that the solution of tasks set by the 27th party congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums demand the fundamental improvement of the utilization of natural resources, restructuring of the activity of ministries and departments in the sphere of environmental protection, and the creation of an atmosphere ruling out any harmful effect from the results of economic activity on man and living nature. Nevertheless, and despite the recently stepped up attention to these questions and the major capital expenditure, the ecological situation in many regions is deteriorating, and this demands the implementation of urgent measures in the economic sphere, the sphere of monitoring economic activity and the state of the natural environment, and the sphere of people's education and upbringing.

The CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers have instructed the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, the USSR Academy of Sciences, the USSR Gosplan, the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control, the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee, the USSR Ministries of Land Reclamation and Water Resources, of the Forestry Industry, of the Fish Industry, and of Geology, and the AUCCTU, jointly with union republic councils of ministers and other ministries and departments, to elaborate a draft Long-Term USSR State Program for Environmental Protection and the Rational Utilization of Natural Resources in the 13th 5-year Plan Period and and Through the Year 2005.

The program in question must define the most important tasks in the sphere of environmental protection and the utilization of natural resources and the main avenues for their solution, and must specifically make provisions for measures:

To ensure the ecologically substantiated development and siting of the national economy's enterprises and sectors and to introduce order in environmental protection activity and the rational utilization of natural resources;

To improve the ecological situation in individual regions and cities of the country and prevent the pollution of the world ocean, the waters of lakes and rivers, and the atmosphere;

To enhance the responsibility of USSR ministries and departments, republic, kray, and oblast party and soviet organs, and enterprises and organizations for carrying out environmental protection work and developing comprehensive industrial and agricultural production units based on low-waste and waste-free technological processes which are the basic strategic avenue for solving the problems of environmental protection and the rational utilization of natural resources;

To ensure the further technical reequipment and development of the existing statewide service for observing and monitoring the level of environmental pollution;

To monitor the work and technical condition of particularly crucial installations and projects (high dams, mudslide prevention installations, and others);

To improve the methods for assessing the socioeconomic efficiency of environmental protection measures and to provide better specialist ecological studies taking into account the improvement of the environment and the restoration and preservation of locations of historical importance and unique natural reserves;

To improve the legal basis for environmental protection and resource-saving activity;

To raise the standards of cadres' ecological training, expand and improve the system of ecological education, publicize and enhance the public's role in solving the problems of the utilization of natural resources and environmental protection in the country, and to further develop broad international cooperation in this sphere.

USSR ministries and departments and union republic councils of ministers have been given specific instructions for drawing up the program's basic sections.

The drafting of the program must be completed in 1988.

On Supplying the Population with Construction Materials and Products [subhead]

The USSR Council of Ministers has adopted a resolution "On Additional Measures To Supply the Population with Construction Materials and Products and Provide Paid Services."

Associations, enterprises, organizations, and institutions (hereinafter enterprises) are authorized to provide paid services to the population utilizing materials and products available at the enterprises, and to sell directly to the population concrete and ferroconcrete products, timber, construction and finishing materials, tools, engineering, sanitary, and technical equipment, pipes, cable and wire products, carpentry products and hardware, components and complete sets for standard timber houses, and other products and materials for building and repairing housing and summer houses and equipping personal plots. Payment for services, materials, and products is made through the enterprise's cash office at retail prices or, in the absence of retail prices, at wholesale prices amended according to coefficients to be determined by the USSR State Committee on Prices.

Enterprises are also authorized to sell timber and construction materials and products to the population from market stocks allocated to trading organizations on the strength of authorization orders from these organizations.

It has been laid down that the cost of materials and products made and sold by the enterprise can be included in the volume of accomplished targets for the production of consumer goods, while the cost of materials and products used and the expenses incurred on machinery and transport operations can be included in the volume of repairs and construction services performed by enterprises and construction organizations in fulfillment of orders by the population (except [krome] enterprises for consumer services to the population). Charges against the wages fund resulting from these operations are accounted separately and are not subject to limits. The cost of deliveries of materials and articles by the enterprises' transportation, taking loading and unloading operations into account, can be included in the volume of work on sale of paid services to the population.

Concerning Deposits in Behalf of Children With the USSR Savings Bank [subhead]

For the purpose of expanding the opportunities available to citizens to make monetary deposits, the USSR Council of Ministers has authorized the USSR Savings Bank, starting in 1988, to accept from citizens deposits in the name of children aged under 16 years regardless of the status of their relationship.

Persons reaching the age of 16 years or more will receive income calculated at the rate of 4 percent annual interest provided the money is held on deposit for a period of 10 years. In the event of the money being left on deposit with USSR Savings Bank institutions after the expiry of the 10-year period and the attainment of the age of 16 by the depositor, and in the event of deposit repayment before the expiry of the 10-year period, the depositor will receive income calculated at the rate set for deposits on demand, in other words 2 percent annual interest.

The USSR Savings Bank, in coordination with the USSR Gosbank, has been instructed to draw up and approve rules governing the acceptance of deposits in the name of children.

Officials Awarded Medals For Service

State Committee Chairman Katushev

PM011157 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Oct 87 Second Edition p 2

[USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decree dated 30 September: "On Awarding Comrade K.F. Katushev the Order of the October Revolution"]

[Text] The Kremlin, Moscow—For services to the Communist Party and the Soviet state and in connection with his 60th birthday Comrade Konstantin Fedorovich Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, is awarded the Order of the October Revolution.

A. Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

T. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

Council of Ministers' Maslyukov

PM301647 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Sep 87 Second Edition p 2

[USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decree on Order of Lenin award to Council of Ministers' Maslyukov]

[Text] USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Decree on Award of Order of Lenin to Comrade Yu.D. Maslyukov

It has been decided to award the Order of Lenin to Comrade Yuriy Dmitriyevich Maslyukov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, for his services to the Soviet state and in connection with his 50th birthday.

A. Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

T. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

Moscow, The Kremlin, 29 September 1987

Ukraine CP Secretary Mozgovoy

PM301501 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Sep 87 Second Edition p 2

["USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Decree on the Award of the Order of Lenin to Comrade I.A. Mozgovoy"—PRAVDA headline]

[Text] For services to the Communist Party and the Soviet state and in connection with his 60th birthday, Comrade Ivan Alekseyevich Mozgovoy, secretary of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party, is awarded the Order of Lenin.

A. Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

T. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

Moscow, The Kremlin, 28 September 1987.

Gerasimov Interviewed on Glasnost

AU081039 Warsaw SZTANDAR MLODYCH in Polish 2 Sep 87 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov by SZTANDAR MLODYCH journalist Marek Rudzinski: "Unnecessary Timidity" — date and place not given]

[Text] [Rudzinski] You are the star of the mass media, one of the most frequently quoted Soviet politicians. How do you feel in this role?

[Gerasimov] Uncomfortable.

[Rudzinski] A spokesman's duties include conveying answers that are not his own. How often do you talk about things you do not agree with?

[Gerasimov] As a representative of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, I have not yet experienced the kind of conflict where what I say disagrees with what I think. Such a conflict did occur last year with my American colleague, State Department Spokesman Kalb. He was deliberately provided with false information, and he presented it. He was lied to, then he in turn lied and had to go.

[Rudzinski] During your press conferences, just like Minister Urban's conference which you attended, journalists from the socialist countries are much less vociferous and inquiring than their Western colleagues. What do you think of this situation and what do you think are the reasons for it?

[Gerasimov] I believe this is not good. This is a sign of a lack of professionalism. Perhaps they know all the answers, but then why do they attend the conferences in the first place? And if they do not know all the answers, why do they not ask? Perhaps this can also be explained by unnecessary timidity. Soviet journalists have also not been asking questions during first briefings [briefingi] in Moscow, and those from the socialist countries have also been asking them rarely. Sometimes I have answered questions from nobody apart from Japanese, Americans, West Germans, and Englishmen. I do not like this. But we have reeducated them, and now they are asking questions, including some very pointed ones.

[Rudzinski] What do you think of the filling in of the blank spots in Polish-Soviet history by the Polish press?

[Gerasimov] This is a very delicate issue. Relations between our countries have not always been the way they ought to be between Slavonic neighboring countries. That is how it was before the October Revolution, and, unfortunately, after the revolution as well. Both sides are at fault. I believe this ought to be written about very delicately and perhaps this ought to be done jointly by a commission of Polish and Soviet historians. Such a joint explanation of the truth may be more advantageous. The point is that history should not hamper us today.

[Rudzinski] When Minister Urban commenced regular meetings with journalists, many people thought it was bad that he was giving them an opportunity to ask tricky questions and express troublesome opinions. How are your conferences received in the USSR?

[Gerasimov] Foreign correspondents ask questions, and it is good that we answer them, because if we did not they would invent some sorts of answers themselves, and that would be worse. The answers would probably all be bad.

[Rudzinski] Opinion polls in Western Europe show that the societies in these countries, especially young people, believe Mikhail Gorbachev's peaceful intentions more than Ronald Reagan's. What consequences for international politics may such a change in attitude have?

[Gerasimov] It is very good that there is greater belief in us than in Reagan. If societies believe us more than Reagan, perhaps Western governments will also start believing us. That would be very positive. This is an advantage of the policy of glasnost.

[Rudzinski] The latest rallies in Riga, Tallinn, and Vilnius are no doubt the price the Soviet Union is paying for its policy of openness [otwartosc]. Do the Soviet authorities agree to bear such costs?

[Gerasimov] Yes. After all, these demonstrations were not broken up.

[Rudzinski] The Western press, especially the FRG press, sometimes writes that the USSR would accept a unification of the two German states as the price of their neutrality. What is USSR long-term policy in this regard?

[Gerasimov] Ideas like this have already appeared before. Time has gone by, and now the two German states are developing in completely different directions. That does not mean they cannot have normal relations, like for example relations between Austria and the FRG. We believe that normal relations between the two German states will merely serve to reduce the tension in Europe. But I do not believe in the possibility of their becoming a single state. This is a political impossibility.

[Rudzinski] Have the American failures and your successes in the space program led to a change in the USSR's attitude toward the "Star Wars" program?

[Gerasimov] No. We do not believe — and not only we, but also most scholars — that this SDI program will protect America against a missile attack. All it will do is transfer the arms race to space and increase the danger of war. So we are decidedly against this initiative.

[Rudzinski] It seems that the USSR will at best be able to sign an agreement with the Reagan administration concerning the elimination of short and intermediate-range missiles. Do you think the next U.S. President will be more partial toward cooperation by means of a denuclearization of the world?

[Gerasimov] I will answer this question if you give me the name of the next president. As far as Ronald Reagan is concerned, he says that he dreams of a world without nuclear weapons. That is very nice, and here we agree with him. We too would like to see a world without nuclear weapons, but right now Reagan's practical political steps are heading toward this nuclear-free world very slowly.

[Rudzinski] Despite the fact that Najib announced on 15 January very far-reaching proposals concerning cooperation with all forces and groups, an amnesty, and a unilateral cease-fire, the Dushmans have not proceeded to negotiations. The fighting in Afghanistan is continuing. In view of this, what do you think of the possibilities of withdrawing Soviet forces from this country?

[Gerasimov] We support the policy of national reconciliation. Although this is a slow policy, it is bringing about certain successes. For example, some of the bands have gone over to the government side and have joined in implementing the program of national reconciliation. In fact, a former dushman leader is in Moscow right now. But of course, all this is very slow, and is making a return of Soviet forces from Afghanistan difficult for the time being. We are ready to leave Afghanistan. We did not go there to occupy the country, but we can leave it if national reconciliation is guaranteed. Otherwise, the country would suffer a bloodbath after our departure.

[Rudzinski] Your old paper, *Moskovskoye Novosti*, wrote that the average USSR citizen has a chance to visit Poland once every 7,000 years. Do you not think that progress in socialist integration depends on greater possibilities of mutual personal contact between our societies, especially the young generation?

[Gerasimov] Yes, I agree. This is indeed an important matter, especially for the young generation. I believe we do conduct an exchange with the Poles; tourist visits to us are increasing. But I think that if the borders were opened completely, you would have a shortage of hotels. In any case, the procedures involved in official trips have been significantly simplified, and this tendency is going to be stepped up. It will be increasingly easier to make trips.

[Rudzinski] Is the young generation in the Soviet Union being conspicuously energetic during the process of restructuring?

[Gerasimov] Although I no longer belong to the young generation, it seems to me that it is. Young people always like demolishing everything and rebuilding it their own way.

[Rudzinski] Thank you very much for the talk.

Moldavia Central Committee Details Unrest

AU061337 Paris AFP in English 1328 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Moscow, Oct 6 (AFP)—The Moldavian Central Committee has called for tighter control to contain "extremist" elements reportedly influenced by Western media and Moldavian emigrants in response to a wave of nationalist and religious unrest, which has swept through the western Soviet republic since May.

The newspaper *Sovetskaya Moldavia*, in an edition reaching here Tuesday, published speeches to a Central Committee meeting on September 29 in which party leader Semen Grossu made a series of recommendations to stem the "anti-social conduct" by young people, and protests by minorities of Jewish and German extraction.

Last May, a Moldavian Central Committee meeting admitted that riots similar to bloody nationalist riots in the Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan had broken out. At last month's meeting, Mr. Grossu said that "many of the shortcomings" of party organization mentioned in a Soviet Central Committee report on the Kazakhstan riots were also prevalent in Moldavia.

Mr. Grossu notably criticized local party bodies for their lack of representation of different national minorities such as Germans, Ukrainians, Bulgarians and Gagaruz.

He also criticized poor organization by party bodies responsible for youth, such as the Komsomols (Communist Youth League), which had failed to check the growth of religious sects, whose membership is made up of 60 per cent young people, and unofficial groups.

With regard to non-official groups, the party leader said that in a number of Moldavian towns, including the capital Kishinev, there were "hostile" organizations. "We must support those which are good and useful, but denounce the negative ones," he said, adding that "extremist leaders" of such organizations should be isolated.

The KGB chief of Moldavia, Gavriil Volkov, accused foreign radio stations employing Moldavian emigrants and foreign secret services of using nationalism and religion "to undermine socialism".

Zionist groups outside the Soviet Union were publishing literature encouraging Jews to emigrate, and giving "moral and material support" to local nationalists, he said.

"While there is a warming-up process, this does not mean a relaxation of ideology between socialist and capitalist countries," the party leader told the meeting.

Mr. Grossu did not give specific details about the unofficial activities in the republic of 4.2 million people neighbouring Romania, but said that several regions had been affected.

In a separate article, the justice ministry's twice-monthly Soviet Justice expressed concern about the number of unofficial groups which had sprung up in response to "glasnost", or openness, now promoted by the Soviet leadership.

While the "overwhelming majority" of such groups was doing "good work", there were also those with tendencies imitating bourgeois culture, among them punks, some rock music fans, and football supporters, who were a threat to public order.

Noting that "we must be more open to the best" aspects of foreign influence, the author said that "preventive work" among the young must be carried out, through democratic means "but within certain limits".

Krasnoyarsk Kray First Secretary Replaced

LD030025 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 2 Oct 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A Krasnoyarsk Kray CPSU Central Committee plenum was held today which considered organizational matters. The plenum released Comrade Fedirko from his duties as first secretary of the kray CPSU Committee in connection with his transfer to other work. Comrade Shenin, who was first secretary of the Khakass Oblast CPSU Committee, was elected first secretary of the kray party committee.

The plenum was addressed by Comrade Razumovskiy.

Shtundel Appointed Ukrainian Minister

AU011735 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 20 Sep 87 p 1

["A Decree of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium"]

[Text] The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium resolves to appoint Comrade Aleksandr Rudolfovich Shtundel Ukrainian SSR minister of installation and special construction work.

[Signed] V. Shevchenko, chairman, and N. Khomenko, secretary of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium.

City of Kiev, 18 September 1987.

Born in 1932, Comrade A. R. Shtundel is a Ukrainian, a CPSU member, and a construction engineer. He began his career in 1952 as a foreman at a metal structural parts plant. Having graduated from the institute in 1958, he was then a foreman, a work superviser, chief of a sector and of a specialized administration, chief engineer, and manager of the Krivoy Rog "Stalkonstruktsiya" trust, chief of the "Ukrglavstalkonstruktsiya" main administration, and Ukrainian deputy minister of installation and special construction work. From 1984, he was Ukrainian first deputy minister of installation and special construction work.

He is a bearer of state prizes and Honored Builder of the Ukrainian SSR.

Herdsman Becomes Kirghiz President

PM290931 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Sep 87 p 10

[Own correspondent Aleksandr Samoylenko report: "The Choice"]

[Text] Frunze—among the questions examined at a recent Kirgiz SSR Supreme Soviet session was an organizational question. Many people reacted to the decision as if something sensational had happened. The news spread instantly, arousing ardent interest. The way in which the organizational question was resolved at the session is still rather an exception (even given the precedents), and not the rule... So what happened?

T.A. Akmatov, leader of a team of herdsmen, was elected chairman of the Kirgiz SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Herdsman becomes president. That was how one of our newspapers intriguingly headlined the report. Here in Kirgizia, however, back in the first postwar years, the miner Kulatov was elected chairman of the republic Supreme Soviet Presidium, and then worked in that post for nearly 40 years. Yes, that is true. But I am not about to say that nothing unusual has happened. It has...

From a conversation with A.M. Masaliyev, first secretary of the Kirgiz Communist Party Central Committee:

"The skepticism and distrust with which many people greeted the session's decision cannot be explained solely in terms of apolitical, small-minded sentiments. This reaction—and it exists—is the consequence of the preceding decades, during which the only people promoted to major posts were, as a rule, people from the nomenklatura circle. We have broken this tradition, and some people are perplexed..."

Including the press. One newspaper published a photograph of Akmatov (in his herdsman's cap!) without daring even to comment on the event. Another offered a comment written in the same dumbfounded tone as if it had been a report under the rubric "Strange, but True."

But what is there really to be surprised about?

Tashtanbek Akmatovich Akmatov: Age 49. CPSU member. USSR Supreme Soviet deputy in three convocations. Member of the Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities Youth Affairs Commission. Twice Hero of Socialist Labor. Delegate to the 27th congress. Higher education. Author of several scholarly books on the economy and development problems of livestock raising...

The paragraph "academic degree" is missing. For the time being... Herdsmen's team leader T. Akmatov was writing a dissertation for a candidate's degree. The work was nearing completion when he was elected head of the republic.

When I telephoned the editorial office from Frunze, they asked me (yet again!) to clarify: Did Akmatov become president directly from being a herdsman, or did he have interim posts of some kind? Perhaps just one. Any one... But no.

On the eve of the session many people in Kirgizia were "seeking" a president, as we customarily call the heads of republics, among the major leaders, and only among them; the power of the stereotype. Who can be president? An important leader, it goes without saying. A person has to climb the service ladder, where he gains experience and the ability to lead those who are at the base of the ladder. And the higher he climbs, the wider his outlook, it is believed. Akmatov too says: "From high up, you can see a long way." But he is not talking about the top of the service ladder. He bypassed this ladder on his way to becoming president.

From a conversation with A.M. Masaliyev, first secretary of the Kirgiz Communist Party Central Committee:

"There is not and has never been anything in soviet work that is special or inaccessible to the 'ordinary mortal.' The 'superiority,' the exclusivity that emanates from the nomenklatura stratum is a fiction, a kind of ritual finery which hid the leader's real nature from public opinion in the days when there was a shortage of glasnost. We are talking about the chairman of the Kirgiz Supreme Soviet Presidium... Anyone can be chairman. Anyone, including people like Tashtanbek Akmatovich!"

The year 1921. From the memoirs of I.M. Sher, leading party worker in Krasnoyarsk, a delegate to the 10th party congress: "After the congress decision to replace food requisitioning with food taxation, Vladimir Ilich drew attention to the fact that in order to implement the measures adopted by the congress successfully, experienced people are needed, and he asked the delegates to point out to him peasants who have a good knowledge of agriculture and enjoy prestige among the population, so that they can be recruited to work on the organs of the People's Commissariat for Agriculture.

"...I gave him the name of V.G. Yakovenko and started describing the popularity and respect he enjoys among peasants in Kansk district... and his talented leadership of the masses.

"Vladimir Ilich listened to me carefully, and then asked several questions. We immediately realized that Vladimir Ilich already knew of V.G. Yakovenko and perhaps even knew the pamphlet he had written about the shortcomings of food requisitioning and about improving relations with the peasantry..."

Akmatov was not "summoned" to discuss his forthcoming nomination. His conversation with A.M. Masaliyev took place in the mountains, where the Central Committee first secretary went specially for this talk. Akmatov took the proposal steadily, without fuss. Not because he thought it was his due. That is his nature—he is imperturbable, unhurried in his gestures and words. He has spent more than 30 years leading the flocks in the mountains, and has mastered this difficult art from the rudiments of pasturage to the subtleties of economic accountability [khozraschet]. He has twice been presented with the star of Hero of Socialist Labor, for 15 years he has been a deputy of the country's Supreme Soviet... He has seen it all—human birth and death, success and misfortune, intelligence and stupidity. Life has taught him to look at the world calmly and cautiously, without fuss. After hearing the proposal, he said only that it would be difficult for two reasons. One—he has only a poor knowledge of Russian. Two—he is not at all familiar with soviet work. "You'll learn the language," the first secretary told him. "And you'll work according to your conscience. Only for people, and only according to your conscience. That's what soviet work is."

When A.M. Masaliyev went away, there was still no fuss because of the great news. In any case, the birth of a child causes more excitement in the mountains. "Presidium chairman?" his wife asked. "They'll be voting. Terrifying..." and went off to the flock. All the time they have lived together, she has worked alongside him. Herdsman's assistant. Their children were born here in the mountains, all nine of them.

As you can see, Akmatov was raised on other heights, and had no taste for official climbs. But he was a state-minded person.

From a letter to V.I. Lenin from I.A. Teodorovich, deputy people's commissar for agriculture:

"Dear Vladimir Ilich!

"Allow me to say a few words about the question of a people's commissar for agriculture from among the peasants.

"Allow me to name one possible candidate for this post who, in my view, has many advantages. He is Vasiliy Grigoryevich Yakovenko, a Siberian peasant, an old inhabitant of Taseyevskoye village, an abundant grain-producing village in Kansk district, the most abundant district in East Siberia. As far as outward things are concerned, he is a peasant aged 40, big, strong, hairy and bearded, accustomed to the plow, in love with the 'land'... His knowledge of the peasant soul, the peasants' way of life, his close ties with the countryside, his irreproachable personal qualities... could... be used by the People's Commissariat for Agriculture apparatus for any agricultural campaign..."

How does any leader begin? By getting to know his subordinates. He sits in his chair and invites them "into the presence:" the more important subordinates one at a time, the others, the minor ones, in a crowd. They enter Office No 1, literally subordinate, tense inside and outside, full of the importance of the moment. Akmatov also began by getting acquainted. Alone, without a retinue, he strolled unhurriedly around the offices, thereby causing a great commotion in the presidium. On his very first day Tashtanbek Akmatovich discovered much that was very curious that the apparatus workers had not noticed, considering it normal... While he was talking with one department chief, six people wandered into the office. "Who are these people?" Akmatov asked. "Why are they walking about?" The chief, confused, mumbled something about public affairs. "When someone has official work to do, he doesn't run about hither and thither. Why run, when everyone has a telephone? If there isn't enough work, let us cut the department staff..." As if foreseeing objections to the effect that this is not a team, but a government institution, he added: "If there is no order in the Presidium, there will be no order in the teams either." One worker said to me: "He was right, after all. It was quite true, people did rush hither and thither. For a smoke, for a chat. They held each other up and wasted time..."

He also noticed a way of complaining that was common to everyone: How hard the work is, how much there is to do. A certain institutional manner of making out, in front of the bosses, that you are working without sparing yourself, of trying to persuade the bosses, in private, that you work harder than anyone else. In his former life Akmatov had never had occasion to pretend, and still less to complain, that the work was hard. He used to wear himself out, but in the mountains there is nobody to complain to. And he had his own ideas about hard work and fatigue, a kind of fatigue that the office incumbents had never dreamed of. If only because you don't have snowstorms in an office, you don't have to warm the lambs with your body or wonder where to get hold of a bag of flour for the family... One subordinate initiated the president into his problems at great length and particularly plaintively. "What do you think," Akmatov then asked him, "will you be able to go on working here?" What else could he ask a man who was so exhausted by his work?

Konstantin Borisovich Gusev, deputy chairman of the republic Supreme Soviet Presidium, said to me: "You know, I could not have asked him straight out like that... It's a strange thing, when a working man is given some task to do, they ask him straight out: Can you do it? And he answers straight out—yes or no. Among workers, that is considered normal. Yet among us, for some reason it is not the custom. You can summon any minister and give him the most unrealistic task. He hears you out, nods, gives assurances, and—doesn't do it. Yet they both know this, the one who gives the instructions and the one who gives assurances but does not carry them out. It is a strange kind of delicacy in assessing each other, and it is damaging to the state's cause."

"If you keep the same kind of discipline in the Presidium as you do in your herdsmen's team, everything will be fine," A.M. Masaliyev told Akmatov.

Tashtanbek Akmatovich thought about it. In the herdsmen's team he had never urged people on with slogans, appeals, or fiery speeches. He created the right conditions for their work. The right conditions for them, and for himself the moral right to expect them to work. In the Presidium, he thought first and foremost about the fact that apparatus workers are citizens too, and have the same right as anyone else to social benefits. Yet here they were ill-treated in order to demonstrate lofty principles; this is the custom among certain leaders. One gorispolkom chairman, describing how order is imposed in the allocation and distribution of housing, once observed: "Look at my assistant, he's been waiting in line for 10 years!"

From the testimonial by A.P. Spunde, former chairman of Yenisey Provincial Revolutionary Committee, about V.G. Yakovenko:

"Yakovenko is an independent man of strong character. He could be placed in a major, perhaps national post for liaison with and authority among the peasants..."

V.I. Lenin's letter to Ye.M. Yaroslavskiy, secretary of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) Central Committee:

"Comrade Yaroslavskiy!

"I ask you to provide your own testimonial and collect others from all the responsible and influential Siberian comrades here about the peasant Yakovenko... More detailed testimonials are needed. For the purpose of discussion in the Central Committee of the question of appointing Yakovenko people's commissar for agriculture.

"Age? About 40.

"Experience? Direct experience of soviet work.

"Respect among the peasantry? Great.

"Knowledge of farming? He is a middle peasant and has not managed a very large farm.

"Toughness? A masterful, tough man.

"Intelligence? Intelligent, quick.

"Devotion to soviet power? He proved his devotion in the period of the partisan movement and after.

"I very much wish you to do this quickly and properly.

"Lenin."

Ye.M. Yaroslavskiy wrote the answers to Vladimir Ilich's questions on a typewritten copy of the letter. This character report on V.G. Yakovenko (which, incidentally, contained no particular "nomenklatura" information about the future people's commissar) entirely satisfied V.I. Lenin. On 9 January 1922 the All-Russian Central Executive Committee Presidium appointed Yakovenko people's commissar for agriculture. Just over a month later *Izvestiya Vtsik* published a report, "The Peasant People's Commissar": "...Access to Comrade Yakovenko is simple: He receives you without delay. In appearance, he is a peasant—'our brother Isakiy.'

"Comrade Yakovenko is just getting into the swing of things and learning affairs. On a number of farming issues he has ideas which are expressed in few words and without learned theses, but are absolutely clear and entirely practicable.

"He is terribly busy, but always welcoming and, so to speak, glad to see you."

Akmatov is no master of bureaucratic phraseology. When he encounters it his heart and mind rebel against it. The tendency to call the construction of a rural hospital (which has gone on through several 5-year plans) "measures on the further improvement of medical services for the population" irritates him in the sense of being mendacious, long-winded, and soulless. As a rural worker and father of nine children, throughout his life he has judged the work of particular departments and organizations by the shelves of the rural cooperative store or mobile shop and the stock of medicines at the pharmacy. It was there, in the mountains, that he and his children experienced the "measures on further improvement," dashing about looking for flour, tea, a stomatologist, footwear. He saw the words and documents about cultural and consumer services materialize in the form of an actual bath house, a mobile movie house... Now, on descending from the mountains, he has risen immediately to the heights where the "measures on improvement" are formulated.

How many times in the past has he had to literally hunt for... school uniform for his nine sons and daughters! Nine uniforms every year for 10 years. He had at least 90 bad memories of the people there, in the capital, who say a lot of pretty words about educational reform, about educating the younger generation. How many of these grand arguments had he heard in the past as a member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Youth Affairs Commission! But then Akmatov would return to his team of herdsmen and start to rack his brains, glancing at the calendar: Soon be 1 September, where do I get a school pinafore for my daughter?.. You might, of course, say: But he is a DEPUTY, surely he could... No, he couldn't.

I believe the question of school uniform was the first he faced in his presidential capacity. As usual, the garment workers started to point the finger at the ministers. The ministers passed the buck to Gosplan. Someone somewhere had failed to incorporate some item in line with the schedule. Anyway, it is unprofitable for factories to make uniforms for children, especially in the conditions of the new economic accountability and self-financing.

So, apparently, it was restructuring that was preventing them from providing children with uniforms... But it is possible to make enough—for next year. And probably for the year after as well.

It has to be said that the working people responsible for this work obviously underestimated the new president (what of it, we'll inundate the former herdsman with indicators, reasons, and documents, and carry on, as before, working not on uniforms but on "measures on further improvement"). But Akmatov said nothing and heard them out (he had been brought up to hear someone out, no matter what he was saying) and then asked: "Is there a factory to make the unforms?" "Yes," came the reply. "Is there material to work with?" The reply was that in principle the material is there. "Then make them and sell them immediately," Akmatov ordered. "Get the uniforms on the store shelves before the end of the year. I will be checking up on you!"

He will not request a report on manufacturing plan fulfillment at the end of the year, he will not call them to account. He will go around the stores and meet with herdsmen; they will not lie to him, they will not display the optimism that so delights the boss's ear. Why should they lie to their own Tashtanbek? They will tell it like it is...

On another occasion, listening to a rayispolkom chairman reporting on further measures to improve medical services for the population of the rayon, Akmatov asked: "How many livestock did you lose in the rayon last year?" The chairman trotted out the livestock losses over the period. "And how many children died in the rayon last year?" the president asked. The rayon leader did not know that, there were no such "indicators" in his plans "on further improvement." It was a serious discussion. Instructive.

Once a woman came to see him, with three children, a fourth in her arms, pregnant. They had an apartment. It was crowded, but they got on with their lives, waiting for something bigger. Then the owner of the apartment showed up again after a spell in jail and ordered them out. I know that many of our leaders are not moved by such situations. They do not take people's misfortunes to heart, but see them as "requests in person." Whatever the visitors comes to discuss, whatever disaster has befallen a citizen—there are standard prescriptions and instructions for all eventualities. So not to worry. And they do not worry. They listen dispassionately, tell people to calm down, offer them some cold water (prepared in advance of the meeting), and drop the visitor's request with their decision into the mirky depths of the apparatus.

Akmatov was distressed. Maybe it was the first occasion in his life (certainly the first as president) when a normal, entirely logical perception of a situation had come into acute conflict with the legislation he was obliged to honor as chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium. In the normal run of things one ought to find some accommodation for the returnee, take him in hand, and get him to keep his nose clean. Touch the family if you dare! That is the normal way. But by law? By law the former convict has rights. Moreover, the police were obliged to help him evict the large family from the apartment. Why do that?—said an anxious Akmatov. It is impossible to give the family an apartment immediately. There is no apartment, and it would be illegal anyway. Akmatov the president was obliged to swallow his feelings and realize that one cannot, that it is dangerous to be kind at the expense of the authorities, the law, and other citizens... A temporary solution was found. And he, the leader, learned something from the situation.

From a conversation with A.M. Masaliyev, first secretary of the Kirghiz Communist Party Central Committee:

"Akmatov certainly does not know everything an experienced leader knows. But, paradoxical though it may seem, this 'ill-informedness' has many very important advantages. How many examples have we seen of leaders accumulating dangerous ballast as they climb up the notorious job ladder: Subjectivism, blind reverence for the table of ranks, mental inertia, relatives, 'one's own' people. Many leaders trail all this behind them. And the expressions 'our secretary,' 'our president' acquire, so to speak a group meaning: The 'our' refers not to the people but to groups of individuals who first make their 'leader' a boss and then live on the proceeds... In this sense Akmatov is absolutely free. It is perfectly clear to us that the best choice has been made."

Tashtanbek Akmatovich is learning the "secrets" of the mechanism that has helped and in some cases hindered him in his life and work and curbed his desire to establish economic accountability in the herdsmen's team. He is trying to understand the strength and weakness of this mechanism called the bureaucratic system. Understand and then destroy. Certainly it is a difficult job breaking up the system, but he will do it. He does not want to submit to it—at any level. The apparatchiks of the republic Supreme Soviet prepared a speech for herdsman Akmatov which he was supposed to read out word for word from the lofty platform of the final session of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Tashtanbek Akmatovich politely thanked them. The writers of the prepared text broke into a sweat when they learned that the herdsman had made his own speech...

Incidentally, this speech was mentioned by "foreign voices" commenting on Akmatov's promotion, incomprehensible to them.

"It is very strange that a herdsman should have been chosen for and appointed to such a senior and important post," the radio said. "This has not occurred before in the Soviet Union... Akmatov became the darling of the Moscow leadership because he noted in his speech (at the USSR Supreme Soviet session—A. Samoylenko) that the republic's livestock raising has Moscow's undivided attention and is receiving assistance... It was these pronouncements by Akmatov at the USSR Supreme Soviet session that gave him the senior post."

Garbage, of course. I read Akmatov's speech. In Moscow he said:

"Dear comrade deputies! Restructuring is taking place in the country. But it is proceeding slowly. There are still many people working badly, violating discipline. This situation worries us. There was a fine account of this in comrade M.S. Gorbachev's report at the Central Committee plenum. We are glad that the party is conducting a course whereby workers and kolkhoz members are actively involved in running the state and are in charge at their own enterprises..."

He also said that grazing land in the republic is becoming depleted and is in need of help, and that the introduction of economic acountability has not been entirely smooth: Wool prices have gone too low and they need to be reviewed. Also, it is necessary to save Issyk-Kul, the pearl of Kirgizia.

When he said all this Akmatov was not yet chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet Presidium, but he said it like a statesman.

...On parting with Akmatov, I asked him who had taken over his team. "My son," Tashtanbek Akmatovich replied. "He is a student. He switched from day to correspondence study and went into the mountains to be a herdsman." The lad was living in the capital with his young wife, enjoying his carefree study and all the benefits of city life. Then his father became chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium... What more do you want? Seemingly not the most appropriate time to move from the capital to the mountains, but he left. "No one suggested it," Akmatov said. "It was his own decision. Can't be bad."

There is nothing bad about it, it is just somewhat unusual: Father becomes president, son becomes herdsman... But it too is a statesmanlike decision.

New Encyclopedia Discusses Trotskiy

PM011705 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Sep 87 Second Edition p 2

[Interview with Academician I.I. Mints, chairman of the USSR Academy of Sciences Scientific Council on the Comprehensive Problem "History of the Great October Socialist Revolution," by unnamed correspondent under the rubric "World of Books": "Toward a Biography of the Revolution"; first paragraph is PRAVDA introduction]

[Text] The "Sovetskaya Entsiklopediya" Publishing House has published the third edition of the encyclopedia "The Great October Socialist Revolution" [Velikaya Oktyabrskaya Sotsialisticheskaya Revolyutsiya]. *Pravda*'s correspondent asked Academician I.I. Mints, chairman of the USSR Academy of Sciences Scientific Council on the Comprehensive Problem "History of the Great October Socialist Revolution," to comment on this event.

"Scientists greet each anniversary of the Great October by publishing new works devoted to its history," I.I. Mints said. "In my view, works by large collectives of specialists stand out among this year's publications. There is the encyclopedia 'The Great October Socialist Revolution' (considerably supplemented by comparison with the previous two editions: It has increased in size from 82 to 118 printer's sheets) and the historical atlas 'Great October' [Velikiy Oktyabr]. Incidentally, the atlas is the first work of this kind. Our Scientific Council was actively involved in preparing both books. I would particularly like to point to the great contribution made to the work by the USSR Council of Ministers Main Administration of Geodesy and Cartography and the 'Sovetskaya Entsiklopediya' Publishing House, which bore the brunt of the work."

[Correspondent] What distinguishes these two works from the earlier ones? What is fundamentally new in them?

[Mints] There was a time when, in speaking of the international significance of the October Revolution, we usually named several of its basic natural laws and sought to trace how they were being implemented in other countries. However, insufficient account was taken here of the fact that countries with different levels of socioeconomic development were being drawn into the revolutionary movement and that the events of 1917-1920 in the European part of Russia were suitable, even as parallels, for far from everyone. As a result, we Soviet historians were faced with the task of making an in-depth study of the revolutionary processes that developed in each guberniya or oblast of Russia. When we began working on these two anniversary works, it was decided to devote special attention to the development of events locally.

Articles describing the course of the revolution in each of Russia's 60 guberniyas and 18 oblasts, in each of the 14 Russian armies, in each of the front-line and rear military districts, in the country's largest enterprises, and in the most important garrisons were written specially for the new edition. Thus one more task has been resolved—I believe that we have succeeded in showing that the revolutionary process embraced the entire country—from Petrograd to Chukotka, from Murmansk and Arkhangelsk to Kushka and Pishpek.

We have also endeavored to realize the same idea in the atlas. As a result, an integral cartographic work has been created which makes it possible to trace how the revolutionary process developed in Russia not only in time but also in space.

Both publications devote considerable attention to the question of the disposition of class and political forces on the eve of October. Both books say a great deal about economic policy during the first years of Soviet power.

Finally, I cannot overlook the fact that both publications are well presented. I personally was struck by the page in the encyclopedia which carries drawings by children who were contemporaries of the great events.

[Correspondent] How are figures in the revolution presented in the encyclopedia?

[Mints] To start with, some data. In all, there are 2,155 articles in the new edition of the encyclopedia, of which 720 are biographical. They include 650 items on active participants in the revolution. Some 22 new biographical articles have appeared, including articles on figures who played a prominent role in 1917 like N.I. Bukharin, G.Ye. Zinovyev, L.B. Kamenev, A.I. Rykov, L.D. Trotskiy, A.G. Shlyapnikov, and others.

Almost all the articles are full of people. If it is a question of enterprises, the active participants in the revolution who worked there and the leaders of factory and plant committees and Bolshevist cells are listed; if an article tells of a military unit, it names the leaders of soldiers' demonstrations. Particularly many people are named in the articles devoted to the country's individual guberniyas and oblasts. In all, the encyclopedia mentions several thousand participants in the historic events of Great October.

[Correspondent] Generalizing works also have another merit: From them it is usually possible to judge not only what has already been done but also what problems need priority study. What do the encyclopedia and the atlas provide in this respect?

[Mints] You are quite right. Omissions are particularly noticeable in generalizing works. We managed to fill in some of them during the process of work. But, of course, much still has to be done. On the one hand, the sum total of the facts which need clarifying and checking is clear to us now. These include the dates of the bolshevization of a number of soviets, the time of the establishment of Soviet power in individual cities in the country, and so forth. On the other hand, the problems which we now realize merit special articles have also been defined more clearly. Thus, it is necessary to make an attentive study of Russia's ideological life in 1917-1922, including the processes which paved the way for the transfer of the masses to the side of the socialist revolution. In general, each achievement of ours in studying the October Revolution sets us more and more new tasks.

BRIEFS

Relay Station Begins Operation

A powerful relay station has begun operating on a hill just outside Gorno-Altaysk. It has the latest television and radio equipment. With the use of relay stations and satellites the oblast center as well as far-flung villages and shepherd's stations will be able to get stable radio and television signals. [Summary] [*Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0000 GMT 30 Sep 87 LD*]

Kazakh Minister Appointed

The Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium issued a decree appointing Comrade (Ozbekali Dzhanibekov) as Kazakh SSR Culture Minister. [Text] [*Alma-Ata Domestic Service in Kazakh 1500 GMT 28 Sep 87 LD*]

Economic

Confectionery, Bakery Cooperative Resolution

PM021055 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Sep 87 Morning Edition pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "At the USSR Council of Ministers"]

[Text] The USSR Council of Ministers has adopted a resolution on the creation of cooperatives for the manufacture of confectionery and baked products.

Cooperatives are to be created with the aim of more fully satisfying the population's needs for a broad range of high-quality confectionery and baked goods under administrations (departments) of local soviet ispolkoms, production associations, enterprises and organizations in the confectionery and baking industry, trade, and public catering, as well as in the Tsentrosoyuz system. It is envisaged that their efforts will be focused on the production of high-quality confectionery and bakery goods not included in the range of mass produced goods.

The cooperative is to be created on the initiative of citizens and local soviet ispolkoms so long as at least three people have expressed a desire to contribute their labor to its activity.

Those people admitted to the cooperatives are to be in the main citizens not engaged in social production: pensioners, housewives, students, and schoolchildren. Enterprise, organization, and institution workers may work in cooperatives under a labor agreement during their leisure time. In this respect the restrictions imposed by the existing law on holding more than one job do not apply.

The cooperative model statute imposes on its members an obligation to ensure the appropriate quality of output, to participate actively in managing the cooperative's affairs, to protect and strengthen state and cooperative ownership, and to prevent mismanagement of and negligence toward social assets.

The cooperative member is granted the right to submit proposals on improving the cooperative's activity and eliminating shortcomings in the work of officials, to elect and be elected to the corresponding posts, and also to receive earnings from income subject to distribution among the cooperative's members commensurate with the quantity and quality of their labor input.

A cooperative member who is responsible for causing damage to the cooperative bears a material liability in a manner and on a scale laid down by the law for workers and employees.

It is laid down that the cooperative member is a legal entity, has his own budget, and works on the basis of self-capitalization and self-financing in accordance with the statutes adopted at the cooperative members' general meeting. The cooperative is empowered to independently draw up and approve a plan for production and economic activity and to approve prices for output. It is envisaged here that in those cases where cooperatives produce baked goods included in the mass production range of bakery industry enterprise products, the prices must not exceed the level of state retail prices.

Cooperatives are allowed to independently sell finished products to the population. Output sales are also permitted on a contractual basis through the trade network and public catering enterprises.

Cooperatives are granted the right to prepare recipes, manufacturing procedures, and qualitative indicators for their products. In so doing, cooperatives are obliged to satisfy the requirements of health care organs with regard to the observance of health norms and the rules governing the production and storage of output and also to use raw and other materials permitted by health organs for culinary use.

It is envisaged that after payment of income tax the income remaining at the cooperatives' disposal will be paid into the cooperative development fund and the insurance fund, and will also be used to pay its workers for their labor.

Under the established procedure, the cooperative may obtain long- and short-term credits from the USSR Gosbank and enter into contractual relations with state, cooperative, and other social organizations.

When cooperatives are set up they can receive buildings, premises, equipment, and other capital assets on lease or free from local soviets as well as from associations, enterprises, and organizations where cooperatives are created.

The resources that cooperatives need initially to purchase raw materials and other material assets regarded as working capital are to be formed by means of short-term bank credits and from cooperative members' resources. For the production of confectionery and bakery goods cooperatives are to use primarily local raw and other materials for their own production and economic activity and to purchase the necessary products in kolkhoz markets and from kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

Cooperatives are allowed to buy the necessary raw and other materials from state and cooperative trade enterprises from a list drawn up by local soviets.

Management organs, associations, enterprises, and organizations where cooperatives are being created and USSR Gossnab organs are allowed to allocate material and technical resources for production purposes for sale to cooperatives. In addition, cooperatives are allowed to obtain materials, spares, instruments, and small-scale equipment in the retail trade network.

Enterprises and organizations are allowed to make parts, spares, and small-scale equipment for cooperatives. If such output is supplied to cooperatives for cash it is to be included in the volume of consumer goods and paid services produced by the manufacturing enterprises and organizations.

Enterprises and organizations are also allowed to provide cooperatives with transport services on a contractual basis, to repair machinery and equipment, and to sell their unused goods and material assets.

Cooperative members are allowed to use private motor transport, equipment, instruments, and premises in pursuit of the cooperatives' tasks, and the cooperative will reimburse the cost of their use.

It is laid down that the cooperative's resources derive from income obtained from the production and sale of confectionery and bakery products, the resources of its members, and other revenue.

The cooperative's income from its activity is to be used to meet material costs, statutory payments and deductions, and the payment of income tax. In this respect the cooperative pays for the use of electricity, gas, water, steam, and municipal services in accordance with the existing procedure and scale of payments for those services as laid down for confectionery and bakery industry enterprises.

By decision of the general meeting of cooperative members the cooperative may allocate a proportion of its resources to state, cooperative, and other social organizations for the construction of production, housing, cultural, and consumer facilities on a shared basis.

The cooperative meets its obligations from its own resources and assets. The state is not liable for the cooperative's obligations.

It is stipulated that the length and routine of the cooperative's working day, the procedure for granting days off and annual and additional vacations, the minimum participation in the public sector economy, and other questions relating to cooperative members' labor activity are governed by the existing labor law and the statutes and rules of internal cooperative procedure.

It is laid down that the cooperative members' earnings are fixed in accordance with the quantity and quality of labor and the individual contribution to the generation of income. Labor remuneration for cooperative members is set according to rates (salaries) and piecework rates approved by the general meeting, whereas remuneration for workers and employees hired by the cooperative under labor agreements is based on the conditions contained in the labor agreement. Cooperative members and people working for the cooperative under labor agreements retain their existing pension as well as their study grant or wages for their main job in full.

Cooperative members are liable to state social insurance in the legally prescribed manner.

Social, cultural, and consumer services for cooperative members are entrusted to the management organs, associations, enterprises, and organizations where cooperatives have been created. They are instructed to afford cooperative members the opportunity to make use of the services of preventive treatment institutions, clubs, kindergartens, young pioneer camps, and other social and cultural institutions.

The management of the cooperative's affairs is effected on the basis of broad democracy and the active participation of its members in the solution of all questions. The cooperative's supreme organ of management is the general meeting, which adopts the cooperative's statutes, introduces changes and additions to them, resolves questions of cooperative membership admission and expulsion, elects a cooperative chairman and auditor (auditing commission), and settles the organizational and economic questions of the cooperative's activity.

The general meeting is empowered to resolve questions so long as at least two-thirds of the cooperative's members are present at the meeting.

Decisions are taken at the general meeting of cooperative members by a simple majority in an open vote.

It is prescribed that the cooperative statutes are to be registered at the rayon (city) soviet ispolkom.

Cooperatives are to be wound up in the event of violations of the law or the cooperative's statutes, when the cooperative's membership falls below three, when it becomes impossible to conduct its activity on the principles of self-capitalization and self-financing, and also if the management organ, the association, enterprise, or organization where the cooperatives were created are wound up and if no management organ, association, enterprise, or organization under which they can conduct their activity is designated within 2 months.

The cooperative may be wound up by decision of the general meeting of cooperative members or of the rayon (city) soviet ispolkom.

The local soviet ispolkoms on whose territory cooperatives are created are instructed to define the sphere of their production-economic activity, to assist cooperatives in the strengthening of their material and technical base and the provision of raw and other materials and transport, and to inform the public about their activity on a wide scale.

The USSR Council of Ministers instructs union republic councils of ministers, the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems, the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee, the USSR Ministry of Grain Products, and the USSR Ministry of Finance to provide the necessary information concerning the procedure for managing cooperatives' financial-economic activity in the manufacture of confectionery and bakery products.

The full text of the cooperative's model statutes will be published in *Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta.*

Ligachev Cited at Tea Sector Conference

*PM020931 Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian
15 Sep 87 pp 1-2*

[TASS report: "Raising the Tea Growing Industry to a Qualitatively New Level. Conference at the CPSU Central Committee"]

[Excerpts] As already reported, a conference was held at the CPSU Central Committee 11 September to discuss measures to increase tea production and improve the quality of tea.

Taking part in the conference were Ye.K. Ligachev and V.P. Nikonov, members of the Politburo and secretaries of the CPSU Central Committee; G.P. Razumovskiy, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; secretaries of the Georgian and Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committees and Krasnodar CPSU Kraykom; the heads of a number of ministries and departments, agro-industrial committees, tea-growing farms, and tea factories; scientists, leading production workers, and senior officials of the CPSU Central Committee apparatus.

Opening the conference, Ye.K. Ligachev noted that the need to guarantee the country's population a steady supply of foodstuffs was one of the immediate tasks of the acceleration policy set by the June (1987) CPSU Central Committee Plenum. As is well known, tea is a staple food product. However, a difficult situation has taken shape with regard to tea production and quality, and the problems are becoming more serious. This requires us to take serious, cardinal measures.

The demand for tea across the country is constantly growing: In the last 10 years its consumption has increased 1.8 times and now stands at 910 grams per capita. Specialists predict that in the next 15 years tea consumption will increase by approximately one-quarter.

At the same time, the situation in the country's tea plantations has become seriously complicated. In the mad scramble to overfulfill plans to hand over leaf tea in Georgia and Azerbaijan a drastic approach has been adopted whereby virtually the entire foliage of the tea plant, including coarse, roughened leaves, has been picked. Such a method of picking has an injurious effect on the plants' growth and development.

Plantation rejuvenation, the uprooting of old plants and planting of new ones, has not really been done on tea-growing farms for a long time. In Georgia, which is the main tea producer, almost 45 % of its plantations are run down and need to be replanted. Disregard for agricultural technology and the sometimes incorrect working of these plantations has led to a sharp deterioration in the quality of tea produced. It has lost its stamp of quality.

In the situation which has taken shape in tea production, Ye.K. Ligachev stressed, part of the blame lies with the USSR Gosplan, which has brought in ever increasing plans for leaf tea purchases according to the principle of the level reached without taking into consideration the state of plantations. A considerable share of the blame falls also on the republic's local party, soviet, and agro-industrial organs concerned with tea production. Starting with 1980, the annual average planned increase in purchases was established at a little more than 4 %, but the real growth was more than 12 %. Increasing quantities of leaf tea were picked, a lot of money was made, but the quality of the product was deteriorating all the time.

Moreover, many factors giving an increased yield were not set in train. Irrigation, for example, which in tea plantations increases the harvest by about 30 %, and what is more increases the quality of the leaf. But fewer than 20 % of the plantations are irrigated.

When I was in Georgia, Ye.K. Ligachev said, I was informed that no irrigation systems had been installed on a single hectare of tea plantations during the last 20 years, and those installed earlier are in urgent need of reconstruction.

There is frequent reference to a lack of resources, but it seems to us that it is quite another matter altogether, namely, the attitude adopted toward a sector which receives only 5 % of all capital investment in the republic's agriculture and accounts for 27 % of gross output.

Further: New, higher-yield varieties of tea plantings are being assimilated at an intolerably slow rate. For example, the well-known "Kolkhida" variety, which has a 50-% higher yield than the local varieties and produces good-quality tea, was recommended for introduction as far back as 1974; today, however, they occupy only 5 % of plantations.

Organic fertilizers are rarely applied to the tea plantations and many essential things are not being done.

The tea factories' capacities still do not match the volume of tea produced. In essence, their retooling has not begun in earnest.

The All-Union Science and Production Association for Tea and Subtropical Crops has only a minor role in the introduction into production of scientific achievements and advanced experience. By the way, it can hardly be called a science and production association as it does not contain a single tea-producing kolkhoz or sovkhoz.

Agro-industrial combines are now being set up in Georgia which incorporate tea factories, kolkhozes, and sovkhozes. It seems to us that this is an effective organizational structure for tea production. But, unfortunately, the economic content is still of the old variety: The kolkhozes and sovkhozes are still set plans for the surrender of leaf tea, that is, the intermediate and not the end product. We believe it is time to assess the labor of the tea growers and processors in terms of the finished product. Incidentally, this is the way we now assess the work of the cotton growers. We already have entire republics which have gone over to this indicator.

It is essential to pay serious attention to improving the entire economic mechanism in tea production and the relationship of the participants in the production and processing of tea, and to the introduction of collective and family contracts and economic methods of management at all stages of production. Questions of price differentials should also be examined: Considerably more should be paid for highest quality teas, and less for lower-quality teas.

Plans for the specialization and concentration of tea production on kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the tea-growing zone should also be examined, freeing them as much as possible from the production of other crops.

The party Central Committee ordered the central and local organs of the tea-growing republics to prepare the requisite proposals and signpost ways out of the prevailing situation.

Ye.I. Sizenko, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee, delivered a report. [passage omitted]

In his concluding remarks Ye.K. Ligachev stressed that serious efforts on the part of central and local organs are needed to solve the problems discussed. There needs to be created an entirely new organizational, economic, management mechanism which would ultimately work toward increasing tea production, and tea of the highest quality at that. This task is a complex one. A vast number of people and diverse collectives have been involved in this—tea growers, processing workers, machine builders, scientific establishments, and workers from other sectors.

Reducing the leaf tea purchase plan with consideration for the higher demands on quality is only one—but by no means the only—important path. It would be incorrect to adopt this approach. We have several other paths which in the next few years can produce a substantial improvement in the quality of this product, including new varieties. The main concern is their speedy introduction; the planting and replanting of plantations must be effected chiefly via the highest-yield and most effective varieties.

An important question also is the change in the structure of agricultural production in the Georgian SSR and the Azerbaijan SSR with the aim of expanding the tea plantations. Here it is necessary to tackle seriously the business of raising the yield of those crops whose area we will be reducing by using the land for the production of tea. We must activate the intensive factor—raising the yield.

Serious thought should be given to the organizational-economic forms of tea growing and the creation, in the Georgian SSR for example, of an association which would embrace the production of leaf tea, its processing, machine building, and science.

It is proposed that party, soviet, and economic organs in the republic, the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee, and the machine-building and other ministries connected with tea production examine these questions and outline plans of short- and long-term measures.

The departments of the CPSU Central Committee have been ordered to establish effective control.

The press, television, and radio must report more extensively on the problems of the tea sector, show the positive experience and positive changes, and criticize sharply everything that is negative and unfavorable in this work.

Wage System Opinion Poll Results Published

PM021609 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 39, 27 Sep 87 p 8

[Interview with USSR Academy of Sciences corresponding Member Valeriy Chichkanov by Aleksandr Guber: "The Reform Mirrored in the Opinion Poll"]

[Text] The Question: "Will an introduction of a new system of wages at your enterprise make material and moral incentives a more powerful lever for improving employees' work, and employees' interests more coherent with those of the enterprise?" was positively answered by 30 percent of the directors of enterprises, 15 percent of workers' team leaders, 17 percent of foremen, 12 percent of the engineering staff, and 22 percent of workers. Half of those polled answered the question in uncertain terms.

These were the discouraging results of the polling of employees of over 100 enterprises in the Urals, prepared by the Institute of Economics of the Ural Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

"Why discouraging?" argued Director of the institute Valery Chichkanov. "Would a unanimous answer be better? That only takes place when no actual changes are meant, and people are aware of it."

[Guber] Do you think that the results of the poll might be different in other areas?

[Chichkanov] Scientists conduct polls and other sociological field work to learn people's opinions. They avoid any guesswork, at any rate they do not pass it off as the actual truth. However, one thing is certain: in the Urals perestroyka has a better than average response for the country at large. There the party bodies have in full earnest taken up its promotion politically.

[Guber] Why then so many uncertain answers?

[Chichkanov] There were many questions included in the poll, all of them aimed at discovering the causes of perestroyka's much too slow advance and people's reserved attitude towards it.

Let's take the question about the amount of individual work under the new system of economic management. As many as 51 percent of workers polled think that it will drastically grow, 18 percent anticipate only a slight increase, 31 percent are of the opinion that their work will become less toilsome, and only 18 percent think that their work will become more interesting. Thirty percent of workers do not expect any appreciable changes in their work.

[Guber] Can it be the case that the workers have not been given a proper explanation of the meaning of the new system?

[Chichkanov] If that is so, then why all categories of those polled (the highest figure - 77 percent - is with the workers' team leaders) are sure that the amount of their work will considerably increase? And why do far less people (from 48 percent among directors of enterprises down to 23 percent among workers' team leaders) expect their work to become more interesting? I can hardly believe that industrial directors are slow to understand the meaning of the new system of management.

[Guber] Nevertheless, economic managers are rather critical about the level of their understanding of the new system, aren't they?

[Chichkanov] One of the questions was: "Have you managed to comprehend the demands of the process of economic restructuring?" Thirty nine percent of directors and deputy directors answered "Yes, fully", 56 percent - "Partly", and five percent - "Not yet". In my opinion, it can be explained by the presence of a large number of unclear points, rather than by the directors' unwillingness to understand the work of that economic mechanism. Even the assuredness of a worker in his complete understanding of the mechanism cannot preclude a possibility of the worker's full comprehension of its flaws. It would have been naive to expect the new mechanism to emerge in a perfect form right away. The more flaws we will be able to detect at the stage of its making, the better. To pretend that everything is OK is a most dangerous thing.

[Guber] What, in the opinion of those polled, produces the strongest decelerating effect on perestroyka?

[Chichkanov] An inadequate system of material and technical supply (it was mentioned by as many as 70 percent of workers, 71 percent of team leaders, 60 percent of foremen, and 21 percent of the engineering staff), and outdated machinery and technologies (correspondingly 67, 64, 61, and 59 percent). The lack of material incentives for workers as a decelerating factor for perestroyka was named by 41 percent of workers and 22 percent of engineers and technicians. For the managers it was by 16 and 39 percent of the same groups respectively. Twenty-one percent of both workers and engineers mentioned in this respect an inferior discipline of work. As we see, different groups viewed certain questions very differently. The vast variance between workers and engineers assessing the material and technical supply system is easily explainable. Workers encounter the problem day in day out, losing in their wages because of idle-time spells. The engineering staff do not have to deal with the problem. As for the introduction of a fully self-accounting mode of work, both groups are unanimous: 16 percent hope that it means vast advantages for the work collective as a whole. Twenty-four and 27 percent do not believe in such advantages, and 60 and 57 percent were unable to give a definite answer.

[Gruber] What kind of conclusion shall we draw from it?

[Chichkanov] Apparently, industrial managers have to find a rational explanation for their optimism, which is greater than that of their subordinate staff: 40 percent of directors and 44 percent of enterprise party organizations' secretaries think that work collectives will have advantages, and correspondingly 11 and 10 percent think that the work collectives will stand to lose. The share of the workers of that group who gave uncertain answers is also rather high: 49 and 46 percent.

The above-cited figures are not to be understood too literally. The most part of negative assessments are rooted in emotions rather than in a sober prognosis of future events. As many as 62 percent of blue-collar workers failed to give a definite answer to the question requiring to name problems which might get more acute after a switch to a full self-accounting system of work.

A similar situation is with positive answers. Every other worker or team leader, and one in five directors found it difficult to formulate any positive changes expected after the transition to the new system of work.

[Guber] Isn't it astonishing? One would think that a vast amount of explanatory work was done.

[Chichkanov] We have already slightly touched upon the problem. All of the questions, especially the ones concerning the practical aspect of the transition to the new system of management, are not likely to be answered by anyone yet. I, for my part, wouldn't dare to. However, people are concerned with the problems directly involving their interests. For that matter, any talk on a general and abstract level is insufficient. On the other hand, it is impossible to explain the principles of the new system, exclusively on the level of a microcollective. A shrewd combination of the one and the other is needed, and very few people can effectively use this combination.

Another cause can be named. Twenty-three percent of workers and 20 percent of engineers and technicians said that they were never given any explanations concerning the issue. A vast majority of both categories of workers were aware of relevant explanatory lectures and meetings being held at their enterprises, but they chose not to attend them. Such mass arrangements must have been badly discredited if people prefer not to attend them even when important matters for them are discussed there.

Generally speaking, I can feel a vestige of an old type of thinking in question: a campaign has been carried out - where are its results? No serious results are to be gained through such means. It is gratifying to see that, according to the results of the poll, the understanding of the idea has reached the minds of the people.

Appreciable results from perestroyka are awaited: in the following year, by five percent of workers, in the current five-year-plan period - by 24 percent, in the next five-year-plan period - by 15 percent, and in the more distant future - by 23 percent. Thirty-three percent of workers haven't formed any opinion on that matter. They were not required to form opinions earlier, so they are not quite accustomed to it now. But they have to learn to.

Agricultural

Grain Sales Plan Fulfillment Reported

Lithuanian Republic

PM060913 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 3 Oct 87 p 1

[Correspondent N. Lashkevich report under the general heading: "Delivered to the State's Granaries"]

[Text] Vilnius, 2 Oct—Lithuania's crop farmers have emerged victorious from the difficult harvest, having fulfilled the plan for grain sales to the state. Over

430,000 tonnes of grain have been delivered to the motherland's granaries, which is almost 10,000 tonnes more than the target. The republic's kolkhozes and sovkhozes have met their winter rye seed needs in full.

A number of rayons in the republic have achieved record harvests exceeding 40 quintals per hectare. The republic's grain harvest is virtually complete today. Above-plan sales of grain to the state are continuing.

Altay Kray

PM061351 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 4 Oct 87 p 1

[Own correspondent report under general heading "Grain for the Motherland!"]

[Text] Barnaul, 3 Oct—Three million tonnes of Altay grain are now in the state granaries. The kray's farmers have achieved this success in very difficult harvesting conditions. Kolkhozes and sovkhozes in 26 rayons are already selling grain in excess of the plan.

Mari ASSR

PM061349 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Oct 87 Second Edition p 1

[TASS report under the general heading: "In the State Granary"]

[Text] Yoshkar-Ola, 5 Oct—Farms in Mari ASSR have fulfilled the plan for sales of grain to the state. They have delivered 110,000 metric tons of grain.

The working people of Gornomariyskiy, Zvenigovskiy, and Volzhskiy Rayons achieved the best results in socialist competition. The plan for delivering wheat to the state was overfulfilled and the target for deliveries of winter rye was considerably overfulfilled.

The farms in the autonomous republic have provided themselves with all the seeds they require and are continuing to sell grain to the state.

Uzbek Corn Harvesting Progress Reported

PM060930 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Oct 87 Second Edition p 2

[N. Sadullayev report under the rubric "Harvest-87": "Flowers of the Amber Fall"]

[Excerpts] Uzbek SSR—The fall days are hurrying by. In Uzbekistan the corn harvest has begun alongside the cotton harvest. Corn is a good backup for grain.

On many farms the areas sown with this crop have increased this year. The republic's farmers plan to obtain 40.4 quintals of grain per hectare and overfulfill seed sales plans. The contract collectives, with the help of the frontrunners' rich experience, are already harvesting an average of 80 quintals of "amber" grain.

Things are well organized on many farms in Andizhan Oblast. Here they obtain an average of 60 quintals of corn. This is the highest indicator in the republic. This is what it means to prepare the machinery in good time, select the cadres, and ensure smooth running of the harvest conveyor belt.

To take everything that has been grown and permit no losses is the unbreakable rule for the corn growers. Harvesting the cobs is painstaking work. Here people's zealous, thrifty attitude is particularly important. [passage omitted]

In Fergana Oblast more than 100 teams have already finished the harvesting. High corn threshings have been obtained by the teams under O. Tolibdzhanova from Leningradskiy Rayon's Sotsializm Sovkhoz, Kh. Kimsanov from Buvaydinskiy Rayon's Kalinin Kolkhoz, and G. Khaydarov from Kirovskiy Rayon's Iskra Kolkhoz.

However, on the whole the state of this important work is not yet up to scratch. There is a low rate of corn harvesting in the Karakalpak ASSR and in Kashka-Darya and Syr-Darya Oblasts. Poor use is made of machinery. Machines stand idle because of frequent breakdowns and the shortage of spare parts and fuel. Over large areas the cobs are already overripe, yet there is no hurry to harvest them.

It appears that last year's mistakes are being repeated. Last year an average of 31 quintals of grain was obtained. The yield per hectare is particularly low in Navoi, Dzhizak, and Kashka-Darya Oblasts. There are many kolkhozes and sovkhozes where the yield fell to 10 quintals. If the harvesting proceeds at a similar pace this year, it will drag on well into the fall. The overripe corn scatters and the yield drops.

This has been spoken and written about repeatedly. But the situation is changing for the better only slowly. There is great diversity in the yields. Crop rotations are being assimilated too slowly, a rational structure of sowings is not adhered to, and poor use is made of the potential of irrigated land...

Much sunlight is frozen into the amber grain. But the grain has absorbed a great deal of labor too. The corn growers spare no effort to harvest and preserve the crop.

Ryazan Potato Harvest Nearing Completion

PM051439 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Oct 87 Second Edition p 1

[Report by PRIOKSKAYA PRAVDA staffer A. Ponomarenko: "Despite Bad Weather"]

[Excerpts] Ryazan, 4 Oct—Harvesting of the "second grain" [potatoes] is being completed on the oblast's kolkhozes and sovkhozes. [passage omitted]

The oblast's farmers have delivered more than 260,000 tonnes of tubers to the procurement centers. The target for dispatching 83,000 tonnes of potatoes to the capital has been overfulfilled.

PRAVDA on Status of Sunflower Harvest

PM051435 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Oct 87 Second Edition p 1

[Unattributed "Topical Commentary": "Both Oil and Feed"]

[Text] The fall no longer leaves the farmer with any hope of good weather. People have almost coped with the harvest, despite the difficulties. But corn and many industrial crops still have to be harvested on large areas. They include sunflowers.

These plants are called flowers of the sun. They play a large role in providing the population with oil. The feed properties of sunflowers are well known. Only recently farmers have begun to begrudge them attention. The areas sown to sunflowers are being reduced, and yields are falling. The oilseed processing base has not been developed either, hence interruptions in the supply of vegetable oil to the population have also begun. We have even had to resort to buying it abroad.

At the beginning of the year the party and the government adopted a resolution on this question. In order to give kolkhozes and sovkhozes an interest in increasing the return from the oilseed field, sunflower purchase prices were raised appreciably. A 100-percent markup was also introduced on the prices for this product sold above the average annual level in the last 5-year plan. Countersales of oilseed cake and meal were also provided for. Substantial incentives. And they "worked" at once. This year, for example, the tracts of oilseed crops have been extended appreciably; not just sunflowers but also rape. Intensive technologies are being actively assimilated.

Of course, much still has to be done to introduce new high-yield strains. More sophisticated equipment is needed, particularly harvesting equipment. Agricultural techniques must also be improved, but this is in the long term. The chief thing today is to gather in as quickly as possible the harvest that has been grown. One-fourth of the sown area had been harvested by the beginning of October. Sunflowers are still standing on approximately 3 million hectares.

Any delay will result in losses. Therefore it is so important to make productive use of equipment and drying facilities, without them standing idle. Much depends on the concerted actions of farmers, transport workers, and oil and fat combine workers. Otherwise spoilage of the raw material and a drop in the product quality cannot be avoided.

The bad weather has not prevented the majority of farms in Kabardino-Balkaria and Dagestan from completing the sunflower harvest. The oilseed purchase plans have been fulfilled by 80-90 percent there. The harvest conveyor belt is operating efficiently in a number of Ukrainian and Kazakh oblasts.

But in some places disorganization and miscalculations are being covered up by references to bad weather. The valuable crop is being harvested only slowly in North Osetia, Chechen-Ingushetia, and Tambov, Belgorod, Volgograd, Kuybyshev, and Orenburg Oblasts.

On some farms people are in no hurry to procure oilseeds, although the schedules for their delivery to reception centers have been drawn up, and the transport routes have been defined. But in practice? Many tonnes of sunflower seeds have piled up in open areas on the Chapayev Kolkhoz in Krasnodar Kray's Dinskiy Rayon, for example. The farm is in no hurry to dispatch them. There is no recollection there of the schedules that have been drawn up.

It is also necessary to accelerate harvesting because in bad weather there is a great danger of diseases striking crops. Everything that has been grown must ultimately reach the consumer. We cannot allow the farmers' labor to have been in vain.

Arable Crop, Feed Harvest Status Reviewed

PM060747 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Oct 87 Second Edition p 4

[Ye. Yevgenyev "Agricultural Review": "Approaching the End of Tense Harvesting Work"]

[Text] This year's fall is difficult and worrisome for crop farmers. Even so, taking advantage of literally every minute of good weather, they are approaching the end of the tense harvesting work.

According to data from the USSR State Committee for Statistics, as of 28 September grain and pulse crops had been cut on 100.1 million hectares on the country's kolkhozes and sovkhozes, 92 % of the sown area. Grain crops had been threshed on 95.7 million hectares. Many farms, having reaped quite a good harvest, have already fulfilled their plans for grain sales to the state. Work is still going on in potato plantations, where potatoes have been dug from 1.9 million hectares, 71 % of the sown area. The harvesting of sugar beet, rice, and sunflower is well under way. Blue combines are crisscrossing the cotton plantations.

Crop farmers are also concerned about next year's fields. Winter sowing has been carried out on 31.6 million hectares in the country, and 46.8 million hectares of land have been fall-plowed. These figures represent 81 and 42 % of the planned areas respectively.

Much work still remains to be done in the feed crop fields. By the end of September kolkhozes and sovkhozes had procured 76.7 million tonnes of hay and 85.1 million tonnes of haylage. This is 2.6 million and 13.7 million tonnes more than last year's stocks respectively. So far the quantities of silage produced and straw ricked are smaller. Overall, the stocks of coarse and succulent feeds per standard head of livestock amounted to 14.6 quintals of feed units as at 28 September. Let us refresh our memories: At least 20-25 quintals are required to ensure normal wintering of the livestock. So, what measures are being taken locally? Our correspondents report.

THE UKRAINE. The state of the republic's fodder base still cannot be accepted as satisfactory. Stocks of only 12.9 quintals of feed units per standard head of livestock have been laid in. Particular concern is caused by the procurement of coarse feed in Vinnitsa Oblast. Tulchinskiy Rayon used to set a good example there. Now it has retreated from the positions it had gained. The annual plan for hay procurement has been only one-fifth fulfilled by farms. Kolkhozes like those named for Lenin, Ilich, and the 21st CPSU Congress have not laid in virtually a single quintal.

The harvesting of corn for silage is now under way everywhere. This crop could considerably improve the feed balance. But many farms are unconcerned about the quality of this feed. In Tyvrovskiy Rayon high-moisture green bulk was placed in storage facilities without any hay. Many farms in Murovanokurilovetskiy Rayon took 10-12 days instead of 3-4 to fill up the trenches.

KAZAKHSTAN. This year the republic's feed procurers, implementing the "Feed and Protein" Program, are coping with their commitments more successfully than last season. Kolkhozes and sovkhozes have fulfilled the hay and haylage procurement plans. Workers in villages in Dzhambul, Kustanay, Tselinograd, and Chimkent Oblasts worked better than the rest. Yet Kokchetav and North Kazakhstan Oblasts failed to cope with their coarse feed stock targets. Some rayons in Alma-Ata Oblast have slackened the monitoring of its quality. For example, the "Dzhetysu" Sovkhoz has stored in trenches 4,200 tonnes of higher-moisture green bulk. Yet that same farm wasted 167 tonnes of valuable feed in 1985 because of breaches of haylage preparation technologies. It looks as if the same story is being repeated.

Some farms in the republic are short of concrete-lined silage and haylage trenches. Despite this, the Kazakh SSR State Agro-Industrial Committee is failing to ensure the planned volumes for their commissioning year in and year out. The preparation of feed shops and feed preparation units for the winter season is also behind schedule. The pace of repairs and maintenance work is slower than last year. Farms in Uralsk and several other oblasts are particularly behind in this work.

MOLDAVIA. The rainfall which caused so much damage elsewhere bypassed Moldavia. The sun has been beating down on its fields ever since the spring. In many rayons it scorched the feed fields. To some extent, losses have been made up by extending the irrigation zone. This is why hay procurement this year is somewhat higher than last year, which was also a drought year. Even so, however, it represents only 66 percent plan fulfillment.

Radical measures had to be taken to build up feed stocks. A large proportion of the corn crop, which could not produce proper grain in this year's conditions, was cut for silage. Even though the average green bulk harvest yield is low (about 150 quintals per hectare), total procurements amount to 5.2 million tonnes. About 3 million of the required 4 million tonnes of silage have been laid in so far.

The stocks of coarse and succulent feeds per standard head of livestock in the republic as a whole amount to 14.1 quintals of feed units. Farms plan to build them up to 19-20 quintals. Sunflower heads, grape and apple husks, and various waste products will all be utilized. Kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Teleneshtskiy, Sorokskiy, Kantemirskiy, Komratskiy, and several other rayons that have been particularly badly hit are procuring straw on contract from outside the republic.

Many farms in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Kurgan and Tyumen Oblasts are approaching the wintering period with extremely limited fodder stocks. Meanwhile there are regions which have fully secured their needs for coarse and succulent feeds, such as Saratov and Voronezh Oblasts. Are there any chances that their example may be emulated to remedy the situation in other regions? The practice of past years provides an answer in the affirmative. Yes, people in the south could manage one more mowing of grasses, elsewhere they could utilize catch crops. Corn reserves are high. After all, more than 5 million hectares of corn for silage and grain still have to be harvested. In order to avoid the crop being hit by frost, it is necessary to speed up the harvesting and silage laying work, giving more attention to quality.

The problem of preparing good quality feed is particularly acute this year. Considerable quantities of poor quality feed have made their way into feed stores through flaws in procurement organization and because of weather conditions. In Georgia, for example, 48 % of haylage has either been graded Class III or has failed to meet grading requirements, with similar conditions applying to one-fourth of all hay in Estonia. In order to prevent a decline of livestock productivity, feed will have to be processed in feed shops. Are they all ready for work? It appears that equipment in a large number of shops is still waiting for maintenance work. There are particularly large quantities of faulty equipment in Irkutsk and Pskov Oblasts and the Buryat ASSR—precisely where the quantity of feed laid in is small and quality leaves much to be desired.

Root crops are a major supplement of livestock rations. Sixty-eight million tonnes of them are planned to be procured. This work is labor-intensive, because so far there are no mechanical aids for digging up feed roots. Admittedly, a new combine was recently tested and a haulm-remover has been developed. Crop farmers are impatiently awaiting their mass production. But selection specialists must apply more efforts to bring out single-stem beet varieties.

Bad weather conditions enhance in particular the role of preparation of dehydrated feed—vitamin-enriched grass meal and chop. So far the stocks of these feeds are 400,000 tonnes less than at this time last year. Work is held back by the shortage of fuel for drying installations. But, wherever possible, it is necessary to build up production of the protein- and vitamin-rich feeds that are so badly needed by stock units.

This year's fall is not being kind to crop farmers. In order to achieve success in the struggle against the bad weather, there is a need not only for high standards of organization but also for personal courage and staunchness by those engaged in bringing in the harvest. Victory belongs to those who devote every hour and every minute to saving the wealth they have grown.

Media Report 4 October Developments

LD060210 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 4 October. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

Orenburg Oblast is threshing its last 100,000 hectares of cereals. (0001)

Latvian farmers have completed autumn sowing. (0001)

Altay farmers have begun storing their fourth million tonnes of grain in state granaries. (0500)

Rain has destroyed 50,000 hectares of cereal crops, around 10,000 hectares of potatoes and vegetables, and 8,000 hectares of flax in Yaroslavl Oblast. Tens of thousands of hectares of oats failed to ripen and have had to be mown for fodder. (0500)

Farms in Irkutsk Oblast so far have threshed over 1 million tonnes of cereal crops. The average grain yield is 18 quintals per hectare, which is unprecedentedly high for the region. (0700)

After 2 dry days, it is now raining once more in North Kazakhstan. So far, the grain sale target has been met by Tselinograd Oblast, which is continuing to produce above-plan grain. Threshing is coming to an end in the neighboring Turgay area, where many rayons and individual farms have achieved the grain sale target. Further north, in Kokchetav, Kustanay, and Severo-Kazakhstanskaya Oblasts, a great deal of grain is still lying on the ground. The weather is not the only source of difficulty; many farms had not thought ahead and so had no contingency plans. One farm in Severo-Kazakhstanskaya Oblast has produced a yield of 19, while another produced only 7-8 quintals per hectare. In the eastern regions and in the Non-Chernozem Zone, 1 million hectares still remain to be harvested for grain. (0700)

The harvest in the east of the country is facing difficulty, caused not only by the bad weather, but very often by the inefficiency of the sovkhoz and kolkhoz managers. In Kurgan Oblast the situation is critical. Although the harvest has been going on for 6 weeks now, one fifth of the grain still has not been threshed. Farms in the oblast are suffering great losses. The grain is difficult to thresh; on many tracts of land it is sprouting directly on the stems. Is it just the weather that is to blame for all these misfortunes? To be frank, it is not. The most serious errors were made at the beginning of the harvest. First, the farmers of Kurgan were late in starting the harvest. According to the experts of the oblast agro-industrial complex, by 1 August owing to the hot summer temperatures some 20 percent of the grain and bean crops were ready for threshing. Second, in many rayons of Kurgan Oblast very great intervals were permitted between cutting and threshing. One example is Tselinnyy Rayon, where the area with cut grain awaiting threshing was as great as 30,000 hectares. In Kurgan Oblast institutions, enterprises, organizations, and schools have been closed so that everyone—country folk and townfolk alike—may work in the fields, turning over the windrows by hand and moving the damp windrows to drier areas. Despite the mounting of combines on caterpillar tracks and Kirovets tractor wheels and the adaptation of mowing machines for turning over the windrows, only 1 or 2 percent of the harvest is being gathered on some days. The entire population of Kurgan Oblast is whole-heartedly behind the effort to gather in the remaining 20 percent of the grain and half of the potatoes. (0908)

Sunny weather in Kuybyshev Oblast has finally enabled an increase in work on the autumn fields. About 100,000 townspeople are helping farmers this weekend. One-fifth of the area planted with potatoes has yet to be harvested. The grain and corn harvest is continuing. (1000)

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